

Hafa Adai!

Two winners of \$1,000 named Friday; \$1,500 raffle on July 23. **PAGE 2**
4 hurt, including two children, in collision in Chalan Kiya. **PAGE 7**

\$1

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AFTER OVER A YEARLONG HIATUS

NMI's first group of tourists arrive

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After over a year since the CNMI closed its doors to tourists to safeguard the community from the threat of the COVID-19 virus, the CNMI welcomed

its first batch of visitors—an over 40-person group—via a Familiarization Tour last Saturday afternoon.

The CNMI's first batch of visitors—a group of YouTube influencers and members of South Korea's media

outlets—is a sort of a test-run for the Travel Bubble that the CNMI has inked with South Korea and is set to launch by

the end of the month. After a routine process through immigration, the group was im-

See **VISITORS** on **Page 4**



After over a year since the CNMI closed its doors to visitors to safeguard the community from the threat of the COVID-19 virus, the CNMI welcomed its first batch of visitors from South Korea via a Familiarization Tour last Saturday.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:42pm, July 18, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **68.7%**

Days since last community transmission **117**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	26,508
Fully Vaccinated:	24,636
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,232
Fully Vaccinated:	3,971
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	494

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,471	6	8,477
Recovered	8,212	12	8,224
Active	105	6	111
Deaths	142	0	142

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	187	0	187
Traced via Travel Screening	151	0	151
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

GAO: CNMI's public debt decreased between FY 2017 and 2019 by 16%

According to a recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report of public debt in the U.S. Territories, the CNMI's total outstanding pub-

lic debt declined from \$166.3 million in fiscal year 2017 to \$97.6 million in fiscal year 2019—a decrease of 16%.

GAO found that the de-

crease of 16% was mainly due to the repayment of outstanding debt. Total public debt outstanding is the sum of bonded

See **GAO** on **Page 4**

DPS chief's stepson is being accused of beating girlfriend

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The stepson of Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero was released from Department of Corrections custody on an unsecured bond less than 24 hours after being detained for allegedly

See **DPS** on **Page 4**



Shane Mendiola, 33, is accompanied by a Corrections officer for his bail hearing last Friday at the Superior Court.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

29,101 Fully vaccinated



Source: vaccinatecni.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL

A children's book that tells the story of a mermaid's adventure through the CNMI debuts.

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BUSINESS

Saipan Select, the very first cannabis retailer in the CNMI, is now open in Tanapag.

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LIFE & STYLE

"Titane," a thriller with a tender heart, wins the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival.

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Local



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THANK YOU!

The Northern Marianas College's Staff Senate recently held an appreciation gathering to acknowledge the hard work that NMC's maintenance, grounds keeping, and security staff do every day to keep the campus safe, clean, and maintained for all students, staff and faculty.

NMC

Two winners of \$1,000 named Friday; \$1,500 raffle on July 23

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's vaccination campaign, "Road to 80," announced two lucky winners of its \$1,000 raffle over Facebook Live on Friday—the first in a series of seven raffles hosted by the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, with the winner of a \$1,500 prize being announced next Friday.

For this raffle and the six other upcoming raffles in the following weeks, 10 vaccine confirmation numbers are drawn, and all 10 will be called in order from what was picked first to last to determine if at least one confirmation number belongs to a CNMI resident.

Last Friday, two lucky winners who will each get \$1,000 were chosen, and the winners will be announced on the Road to 80 Facebook page at a later time. As of press time Sunday, the two winners have yet to be named.

To qualify for the raffles, an individual has to be a CNMI resident and has to have received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine, and have their vaccine confirmation number through registering online at vaccinatecnmi.com.

As of Sunday, almost 31,000 individuals have received their

See **WINNERS** on Page 4



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

07/16/2021

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) SECTION 3 PRESENTATION

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is conducting a Section 3 presentation for all interested contractors planning to conduct business with the NMHC. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) encourages all HUD funded programs to comply with the Section 3 program requirement.

What is Section 3? It is a provision of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968 and the purpose of Section 3 is to ensure employment and other economic opportunities generated by certain HUD financial assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, and consistent with existing Federal, State and local laws and regulations, be directed to low-and very low-income persons, particularly those who are recipients of government assistance for housing, and to business concerns which provide economic opportunities to low-and very low-income persons.

The Section 3 presentation will be held on August 17, 2021, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom Teleconferencing. You may access the Zoom Teleconference link at www.nmhcgov.net "Public Notice / Announcement tab" or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447 or via email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Kilili: Marianas Medicaid will get \$482.35M over 8 years

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said over the weekend that the Marianas Medicaid will receive \$482.35 million over the next eight years.

In his e-kilili newsletter, Sablan also disclosed that he is working to make sure that the \$88.73 million that Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres borrowed

for the CNMI as a Community Disaster Loan is forgiven.

The delegate said Marianas Medicaid will get \$482,350,000 under the terms of a bipartisan agreement approved by the U.S. House Health Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce Committee on Thursday.

He said H.R. 4406 also sets the local match requirement for the Marianas at 17%, low-

er than for any state.

Sablan thanked Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. (D-New Jersey 6th District), chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA 5th District), ranking member, who worked on their respective sides of the aisle to reach this agreement.

He said their deal extends through 2029 the two-year funding increase and 83/17 improved federal/local matching rates that they enacted in 2020 for the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The delegate said H.R. 4406 also provides Puerto Rico with a five-year extension at a federal/local match of 76/24.

Pallone said during Thursday's mark-up that this would be the longest extension of increased Medicaid funding for the U.S. territories other than the extension they were able to provide in the Affordable Care Act.

Sablan said that, like Pallone, he remains committed to a permanent funding solution for all territories.

On the \$88.7 million CNMI loan, the delegate said that language to forgive such

money borrowed from the federal government this year was added to the fiscal 2022 Homeland Security spending bill during Monday's Appropriations Committee mark-up.

In May 2022, Torres asked Sablan for a change in federal law that would allow him to obtain a Community Disaster Loan from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to fund CNMI government operations. The delegate said he did include the necessary statutory change in the fiscal 2021 omnibus appropriation, Public Law 116-260, that was enacted in December. Sablan said Torres quickly borrowed \$88,734,930.

"Given how shaky our economy is right now, however, I do not want the people of the Marianas saddled with so much debt," Sablan said.

He said this week's action in U.S. Congress was a first step toward that goal for loan forgiveness.

Last April, Torres said the \$88.73-million loan will settle the CNMI's outstanding obligations associated with its response to Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in the CNMI in October 2018.

FEMA already loaned the CNMI \$5 million at 0.25% interest on Sept. 30, 2020. The \$88.73 million is the remainder of the loan amount.

Santos pushes for construction of running track on Rota

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) is pushing for construction of an athletic field and running field on Rota, as was recently recommended to the Rota Legislative Delegation for consideration.

Santos, who is the Rota Legislative Delegation chair, said the project will be time-consuming and costly but will give Rota students and people a safe and dedicated place to train and exercise, and help encourage a healthier and active lifestyle.

The senator disclosed she has already tasked the Legislature's fiscal analyst to identify a funding source for this project.

In her letter last week to Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and Board of Education vice chair Herman M. Atalig, Santos said two potential sites have been identified and will require further assessment. The first is in the Sinapalo Elementary School campus and the second is directly adjacent to the baseball field in Sinapalo.

"I would like to collaborate our efforts and resources to see this project reach fruition to provide the same resources, albeit on a smaller scale, that our brothers and sisters on the islands of Tinian and Saipan enjoy," Santos told the Ataligs.

Tinian's running track is located at the Tinian Jr./Sr. High School campus, while on Saipan it is adjacent to the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium and the baseball/softball fields.

Santos underscored the need to have a collaborative front from all major stakeholders if they want to achieve this goal. "More and more of our people are living healthier lifestyles and are becoming more passionate about running and walking," she said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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JGO probe comes down to witness' insistence on Chamorro

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The insistence of a witness on having statements addressed to her be translated into Chamorro led to a tense

exchange last Friday as the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee continued its investigation into the expenditures of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Heated arguments ensued after the

witness, special assistant for administration Mathilda A. Rosario, insisted on her constitutional right to speak in Chamorro and have all questions asked of her—including all statements preceding any question—be

translated to Chamorro during the JGO hearing.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the House chamber Friday at about 4:15pm, Rep. Christina E. Sablan (D-Saipan) was questioning Rosario about a lighter worth \$1.49 that were among the items that Torres purchased and had reimbursed as shown in documents presented before the JGO.

Rosario will resume her testimony tomorrow, Tuesday, at 2:30pm. The JGO is investigating Torres and first lady Diann Torres' travels and expenses.

The argument started when Rosario, through an interpreter, asked that Sablan's statements prior to asking her a question be repeated for translation. Sablan said she was not addressing Rosario in the earlier part of her statement, but committee chair Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan).

Rosario, through interpreter Florence Kirby, said she's asking for a translation of what Sablan had said in framing a question so she can un-

derstand it.

Sablan pointed out that the question is very simple yes and no question, which Babauta also stated. "It's a simple yes or no question," she said.

Rosario insisted that everything is translated from what had been said from the very beginning for the question, as well as the question itself. She reiterated that she is exercising her constitutional right to have the statement prior to the question be translated in Chamorro.

Rosario's counsel, Viola Alepuyo, who sat beside her during the hearing, said Rosario had stated that she feels more comfortable when the questions and the statements directed at her are spoken in Chamorro. "The court said it doesn't matter whether you are proficient in English, you still have the constitutional right..." Alepuyo said.

A longer version of this story
is available at
www.saipantribune.com

GAO

From Page 1

debt outstanding and other debt held by the primary government and component units.

Total public debt outstanding as a share of GDP generally remained constant at about 8% between fiscal years 2017 and 2019. Total public debt outstanding per capita decreased from \$2,308 in fiscal year 2017 to \$1,958 in fiscal year 2019, the lowest among the U.S. territories.

"The decrease in our public debt is an indication of our commitment to fiscal sustainability, transparency, and accountability of funds for their intended purposes," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "It has always been a goal of our administration to take care of longstanding obligations to put our government in a better fiscal position than when we took office. We are committed to continuing this progress so that we can make sure our children and future leaders are in a better place."

"Despite the fact the CNMI had two disasters, this GAO reports shows that we continued to improve on paying down our public debt. We will continue to put in all effort to rebuilding our economy and to provide opportunity for our people, despite the ongoing challenges of the global pandemic. We hope that we will continue to move in this trajectory and continue to lift up the lives of our people moving forward. Our financial goals are centered on addressing the needs of our people and at the same time reducing our obligations and liabilities," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

GAO is the supreme audit institution of the federal government and provides the U.S. Congress, the heads of executive agencies, and

the American public with "timely, fact-based, non-partisan information that can be used to improve government and safe taxpayers billions of dollars." The work of the GAO is "done at the request of congressional committees or subcommittees or is statutorily required by public laws or committee reports."

Fluctuating revenue

GAO found that the CNMI's total revenue fluctuated between 2017 and 2019 due to Super Typhoon Yutu and Typhoon Mangkhut. The CNMI's total revenue was \$516.6 million in fiscal year 2017, increased to \$705.4 million in fiscal year 2018, and decreased to \$656.5 million in fiscal year 2019.

The CNMI's general revenue was \$334.4 million in fiscal year 2017 and decreased to \$266.0 million in fiscal year 2019, an overall decrease of 20%. In fiscal year 2017, the CNMI's total expenses were \$430.1 million, and increased to \$689.8 million in fiscal year 2019, an increase of 60%. This significant increase in total expenses was mainly due to increases in expenses for health, public safety and law enforcement, community and social services, and CNMI's Public School System component unit. Of total expenses in fiscal year 2019, \$524.2 million were incurred by the primary government, while \$165.6 million were incurred by component units. In fiscal year 2019, the CNMI had a deficit of \$33.3 million due in large part to Super Typhoon Yutu. In fiscal year 2017, it had a surplus of \$86.5 million.

"The fluctuation in revenue is [attributed] to our economic growth in 2017 and 2018 and the unfortunate decline in fiscal year 2019 was because of the typhoons that impacted our economy. This is why we had a

deficit in 2019 after having a surplus in 2017, which was wiped out in order to address our immediate recovery needs following Super Typhoon Yutu," said Torres.

Fiscal risks

GAO noted that the CNMI's total public debt has continued to decline, however, worsening economic conditions and significant pension liabilities present fiscal risks.

"The Coronavirus Disease 2019 [COVID-19] pandemic had a significant negative impact on tourism, [the] CNMI's primary industry. Territory officials told us tourism from Asia declined significantly beginning in January 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, leading to a sharp reduction in anticipated general revenue. Territory officials told us they are taking steps to diversify the economy in areas such as digital technology, cannabinoid products, and fishing," the GAO stated in its report.

"Through our collaborative efforts with our Council of Economic Advisers, our business community, the Legislature, and people in our community who have shared their ideas with me, we have a policy plan in place to diversify our economy in order to recreate new revenue for our government and community so that new jobs can be created for our people," said Torres.

The CNMI reported a net pension liability for the primary government of \$529.3 million in fiscal year 2019, which was 44% of GDP in that year. The CNMI has already secured a pension obligation bond to ensure full retiree payments.

A copy of the June 2021 GAO report on the US Territories Public Debt Outlook is available online at <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-21-508>. (PR)

VISITORS

From Page 1

mediately whisked off to the Pacific Islands Club Saipan last Saturday.

Members of the CNMI community and representatives of various agencies showed up at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to welcome this first batch of international tourists the CNMI has seen in over a year.

According to Priscilla Iakopo, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director, MVA helped organize what the business calls a FAM Tour. "The MVA, on behalf of our board of directors, are ecstatic in regards to the first international flight from South Korea beginning with our Familiarization Tour. MVA had set aside a budget of \$460,000 and this is for the airlines, hotels, sights and tours, and to also visit the islands of Rota and Tinian," she said.

Iakopo said the over 40 FAM Tour participants will stay for as long as 14 days to really experience what

the CNMI has to offer and, in turn, share their experiences with their respective media platforms to entice more people to jump on CNMI's Travel Bubble.

"They will be quarantined at PIC for the first five days and after [after passing the CNMI's COVID-19 test], they will be staying at Kensington Hotel. These participants will be here for at least seven days, the majority will be here for 14 days to give them an opportunity to experience the islands of Rota and Tinian," she said.

Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, along with her staff, also joined the welcome party at the airport, stating that it was a very exciting day for the CNMI.

"It's really exciting to be able to be here and witness this. I firmly believe this is the roadway to economic recovery so this is the first step and I hope that they enjoy the accommodations that we are providing. They can experience our hospitality, they get to see our beautiful beaches, and I hope that the word is spread about the beauty that the Marianas has to

offer," she said.

King-Hinds said the FAM Tour opens the door between the CNMI and one of its primary markets after over a yearlong standstill.

"For me, on a personal level, I've been working with the [Tourism Resumption] Task Force to try and find a way to bring tourists back on island and so this is a very exciting moment for the people of the CNMI. Obviously, we don't anticipate that there are going to be troves of tourists coming in but this, at the very minimum, opens up the door between one of our primary markets, which is Korea," she said.

According to Governor's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, the hope for the FAM Tour is that the CNMI's Travel Bubble is promoted at the highest level. "It's a very exciting day for the CNMI. We're here to welcome our FAM group tour. We're excited to get everyone out and start doing work and making sure that the CNMI is promoted at the highest level," he said.

DPS

From Page 1

beating his girlfriend.

Shane Mendiola, 33, who is also a police officer, was granted release from DOC to his third-party custodian at around 10am Friday morning after being detained Thursday evening on charges of assault and battery, domestic violence, and disturbing the peace.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho allowed Mendiola to be released on an unsecured bond to his brother, Herman Aguon, who serves as his third-party custodian. An unsecured bond means Mendiola was not required to post a cent of his initial \$10,000 cash bail.

Saipan Tribune learned that Mendiola turned himself in Thursday evening. By Friday morning, Mendiola's lawyer was ready to propose modification of his bail and had already prepared a memorandum for release to a third-party custodian.

Family members of the victim said that when they reported the incident to police the day before, Wednesday, responding officers did not arrest Mendiola allegedly because of orders given by a couple of DPS officers (*Saipan Tribune is temporarily withholding their names*).

According to court documents, police responded to a disturbing the peace call at around 9:31pm last Wednesday, made by one of two witnesses in the alleged assault.

One of the witnesses told police

that at around 9pm that night, she was with the victim and another friend at the Safe House bar in Garapan when Mendiola showed up in full DPS Boating Safety uniform.

The witness told police that Mendiola came in and pulled the victim to have her follow him. Outside, the witnesses said they saw the victim leave with Mendiola. Not long after, the witnesses said they received a message from the victim stating that Mendiola punched her in the face.

At around 10:09pm, the responding officers arrived at the victim's residence in As Matuis and made contact with the victim and Mendiola who were standing by the front door. The victim told police that Mendiola had arrived at Safe House and was calling out to her and then later pulled her by her pants and said, "Let's go."

In the car, the victim said Mendiola kept asking her why she wasn't answering her phone and when she told Mendiola that she was just going to have a couple of drinks, Mendiola allegedly punched her in the mouth. Police observed dark purple bruising on the inner part of her lower lip. The victim said Mendiola also pulled her hair and pulled out her earring. Mendiola's girlfriend told police that she is scared of Mendiola but feels bad for their children.

In an interview with Mendiola, he claims he did not hit the victim and he only yelled at her for not answering her phone. He also said that he was only wearing his DPS issued uniform because he didn't have any other shirt at the time.

WINNERS

From Page 2

first or single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and are all eligible for the series of raffles. Capping the weekly prizes is the announcement of multiple winners of thousands of dollars and one winner of a 2020 Nissan Rogue at the Taste of the Marianas main stage on Aug. 28 at 8pm.

Present during the live stream on Friday was raffle host Brad Ruzsala, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther Muna, COVID-19

Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, CHCC administrator Heather Pangelinan, and other members of the CNMI's public and private sector.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can register online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).

According to CHCC's COVID-19 dashboard, as of Sunday, 68.7% of the CNMI's eligible population are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Road to 80's official Facebook page, and more information on the upcoming raffles, can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/road-to80cnmi>.

Latest Fire Academy kicks off today

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services will launch today an emer-

gency Fire Academy that has been in the works since April, following the termination of nine firefighter who refused to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

According to DFEMS Commissioner Dennis Mendiola, the academy will see a total of 52 cadets: eight from Rota, six from Tinian, and 38 from Saipan.

"The academy will be five months long. The plan for [graduation] is December," Mendiola said.

DFEMS has been preparing to launch the emergency Fire Academy since April to make up for the loss of the nine firefighters who were terminated for refusing to get vaccinated.



Mendiola

Initially, the target date for the start of the academy was some time around June but had to be pushed back. It was then expected to kick off in August but now, it has officially been set to start July 19.

In a previous interview with Mendiola, he said the department was left with only 114 personnel due to the loss of the nine firefighters. "We're already stretched thin, so what we did was we deploy personnel from Rota and Tinian to augment the shortage. We [need] to launch an emergency Academy and hopefully we can fill these positions as soon as possible," Mendiola said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, of the initial 23 individuals who signed a petition against the mandatory

vaccination, nine were issued termination notices last Monday effective immediately for continuing to defy a directive to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The petition originally started off with 23 individuals but when the department put them on administrative leave, 14 of the 23 consulted with family members who convinced them to be vaccinated.

Currently, the nine are suing DFEMS and Mendiola, in his capacity as Fire Chief, for violating their constitutional rights and are asking the court to reinstate them to their previous posts while their lawsuit is pending.

Senate approves \$144.84M concurrent resolution for budget

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Senate passed Thursday with amendments a House concurrent resolution to approve \$144.84 million in revenues and resources of the CNMI that are available for appropriation in fiscal year 2022, with only \$103.38 million left for appropriation after deducting debt service payments and NMI Settlement Fund obligations.

With the Senate's passage, House Concurrent Resolution 22-1, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1, will go back to the House.

Senators agreed to amend the resolution by striking out a provision that states that earmarked funds shall be unsuspended.

According to the House

Concurrent Resolution 22-1, HD1, SD1, the total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2022 is \$144,848,801. Minus \$45,951,500 in debt services, the total local revenue and resources available for appropriation is \$98,897,301. With \$4,487,022 in revenue and resources for the Department of Public Lands, this brings the budget request to a grand total of \$103,384,323.

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios recently submitted a revised budget proposal for fiscal year 2022 that identifies the same gross budget of \$144.84 million, with only over \$98.89 million left for appropriation after deducting debt service payments and NMI Settlement Fund obligations—essentially similar to the numbers that the administration submitted last April.

Volume IV, however, of the revised budget fully allocates the \$512,076,165 that is available to the CNMI from the American Rescue Plan Act, pursuant to what Finance Secretary David DLG. Atalig presented last June 5 as the government's spending plan for the ARPA money.

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NMHC IFB 2021-012

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: August 19, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

Vehicle Lease of 2-Pick-up Trucks for the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

Bid information and packet is available on July 19, 2021, at the NMHC website at www.nmhc.gov.net by clicking on the "Procurement Tab" or at the CDBG-DR website at www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

Inquiries regarding this bid shall be submitted to Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager / Procurement Officer via email at officemanager@nmhc.gov.net or facsimile at (670)234-9021, on or before July 26, 2021, no later than 10a.m.

/s/
Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairwoman, NMHC Board of Directors

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New kids' book tells story of mermaid's adventures in CNMI

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A children's book that tells the story of a mermaid's adventure through the Northern Mariana Islands debuted last Saturday at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, with the book's three young authors signing copies of the books.

The children's book, *Kareran Sirena*, was launched under the auspices of the Lady Diann Torres Foundation and the Northern Mariana Islands Girl Scouts at the community marketplace event Project Liffang at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan, which took place from 8am to noon.

At the booth for the book, community members were able to meet the authors and buy the book, mermaid plush



toys, and mermaid stickers.

Kareran Sirena is the sixth in a series of books that are a part of the LDTF's Language and Literacy Young Author's Program. *Kareran Sirena* translates to "Sirena's Adventure."

According to first lady Diann Torres, her foundation and the Girl Scouts met by chance sometime ago at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, as Torres was there to be a part of a read-along event. She said she gave the Girl Scouts an opportunity

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Miss Marianas 2021 Savannah Lyn Delos Santos and Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Sasamoto share a photo with *Kareran Sirena* authors Serenity Fujihiro, Emma Sablan, and Ariah Villagomez during the book's launch at Project Liffang at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan on Saturday. The book is a collaboration between the Lady Diann Torres Foundation and the Northern Mariana Islands Girl Scouts.

to write a story and put a book together, to which the Girl Scouts agreed. Written by Ariah Villagomez, Emma Sablan and Serenity Fujihiro with the guidance of Miss Marianas 2019 Shannon Sasamoto and illustrated by local digital art-

ist Mikeala San Nicholas, Torres said the book took eight months to complete.

According to Sasamoto on Saturday, the book follows a young mermaid named Sirena who goes on an adventure through the Northern Mariana Islands. Sirena at first travels alone, but eventually makes friends and creates important bonds with others along the way, signifying the importance of family and community. For Torres, she said it was an "awesome opportunity to be a part of Project Liffang," and was pleasantly surprised by the community's turnout at the book's booth on Saturday. As LDTF president, she greatly appreciated the support of the friends and family of the Girl Scouts.

"We appreciate the support

for our girls. That's why we're here— we're here for these young girls and, of course, all our other young authors. So, if you see us around, it's for the girls. Come and support our girls," said Torres.

Past books that were written by young local authors and are a part of the LDTF's program are *Hafa Sinentete-mu*, *I Lina'la Hu*, *Maolik Kontra Baba*, *Bweletaal Wischira Eew Kkol Refahuwasch*, and *I Duendis*. According to Torres on Saturday, a seventh book is in the works which she hopes will be completed by the end of this year. These five books can be found on Amazon.

Those interested in purchasing *Kareran Sirena* and/or a mermaid plush toy can email ladydiannntorres@gmail.com for more details.

Man accused of sexually assaulting minor

On June 13, 2021, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a call reporting a sexual abuse of a minor case.

Police met with the caller, who stated that Ichitaro Faisao had sexually abused two minors.

After a follow-up investigation, both minor victims confirmed the incident and stated that Faisao had also sexually abused another mi-

nor. The three victims told police that it began when Faisao returned from being off-island sometime around August of last year.

On July 6, 2021, a police officer




Faisao

drafted an affidavit and complaint of probable cause in support of an arrest warrant Rule 4, which


was later signed by Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo for the charges of sexual abuse of a minor in the third degree with a bail amount of \$10,000.

The arrest warrant was executed on the same day and Faisao was taken into custody. (PR)



U.S. Probation Office

Districts of Guam and
the Northern Mariana Islands



NOTICE OF SOLICITATION TREATMENT SERVICES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, MENTAL HEALTH, AND SEX OFFENDERS FOR FEDERAL DEFENDANTS AND OFFENDERS


The U.S. Probation/Pretrial Services Office, Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, intends to procure substance abuse, mental health, and sex offender treatment services for federal defendants and offenders using Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs). Separate BPAs will be issued for Guam, Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and required services may include the following: **urine collection testing and reporting; intake and assessment; counseling; psychological evaluations; medication; and therapy.**

Interested vendors must respond on time and clearly show the following: (1) they can provide services; (2) such services will be provided by certified, licensed professionals with experience in such treatment; and (3) prices of such treatment shall be as low or lower than those charged to the vendor's most favored customer for comparable quantities under similar terms and conditions.

Interested vendors must contact Melinda Santos, U.S. Probation Officer Specialist, no later than Tuesday, August 3, 2021 at the following address:

U.S. Probation Office
Districts of Guam and the NMI, 2nd Floor U.S. Courthouse,
520 West Soledad Avenue, Hagåtña, Guam 96910

Email: Melinda_Santos@gup.uscourts.gov
Telephone: (671) 969-4614
Facsimile: (671) 969-4601
Website: www.gup.uscourts.gov



INVITATION TO BID

Mount Carmel School Sugar King Building Restore to Pre-Disaster Condition

Mount Carmel School, is seeking qualified Invitations To Bid (ITB) for the exterior repairs to the Sugar King Building to restore roof facility back to pre-disaster design, capacity and function within the existing footprint with in-kind materials.

Bidders must submit their bids to the MCS Business Office during working hours (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.), Mondays through Fridays, except on holidays. The bid must address the essential requirements as indicated on the ITB scope of work. Interested parties are encouraged to provide to MCS, in writing, their mailing address, email address, and/or fax number in the event that addendums are made to the ITB.

Questions regarding this ITB must be submitted in writing to the Mount Carmel School Business Office: via email to mtcarmelknights@gmail.com no later than 5:00 p.m. local time **July 19, 2021**.

Sealed Bids for this project must be submitted with one (1) original, two (2) copies to the Mount Carmel School Business Office, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, no later than July 23, 2021 and must be marked ITB -MCS - Sugar King Building - Restore To Pre-Disaster Condition. Bids submitted by firms outside the Commonwealth must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 23, 2021** and must be received by **July 27, 2021**.

Bidders outside the Commonwealth must notify Mount Carmel School Business Office, in writing, of their intent to submit in order to receive this additional seven (7) working days for the receipt of the actual bid documents. This notice of intent to submit must be e-mailed to mtcarmelknights@gmail.com and must be received no later than 4:00pm, local time July 21, 2021.

Note: failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

All responses to this ITB should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the bidder awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Mount Carmel School reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any Bids in the best interest of the MCS. All Bids shall become property of the Mount Carmel School.

Scope of Work

MCS is seeking bids for Sugar King Building to restore its roof facilities back to pre-disaster design, capacity and function within the existing footprint with in-kind materials.

- Sugar Cane - Roof
 - Remove and replace fifteen hundred (1500) square feet of corrugated roofing.
 - i. Install 1500 SF of 3/4" CDX plywood sheathing on roof
 - ii. Install 1500 SF of Steel roofing panels, galvanized, 24 gauge
 - iii. Install 50 ridge Steel roofing panels on steel frame, galvanized, 20" wide
 - iv. Install Hurricane straps, galvanized steel strap bracing
- Sugar Cane - Windows
 - Remove and replace 12 windows measuring 66" (H) x 70 5/8" (W).

No extensions will be granted beyond the agreed upon time frame, thus bidders must consider their ability to fully comply with the scope of work in its entirety given restrictive time constraints.

Evaluation of bids will be based on the following criteria:
Meeting exact specifications (50%)
Pricing (50%)

The evaluation of the bids will be performed by a team determined by the MCS President and based upon predetermined criteria. MCS reserves the right to request evaluations from subject matter experts who may not be members of the school and who will not be gainfully employed by any of the vendors which whom submitted bids.

Award shall be made to the responsible offer or whose bid is determined to be most advantageous to MCS, taking into consideration price and evaluation factors set forth in this ITB. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed.

MCS reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of MCS. All bids shall be the property of the MCS.

END OF SCOPE OF WORK

/s/ JOHN BLANCO
Business Manager, MCS

/s/ FRANCES TAIMANAO
President (Acting), MCS

4 hurt, including two children, in collision in Chalan Kiya

Four persons were hurt—including one who had to undergo surgery and two children—during a collision involving

an SUV and a cargo truck last Thursday in Chalan Kiya.

According to a police report of the incident, the SUV

driver sustained serious injuries from the collision but was responsive, and was admitted to the Commonwealth Health

Center's Emergency Room for surgery. The second occupant in the SUV—a 2-year-old girl—was kept at CHC

for further observation. The third occupant of the SUV—a 10-year-old boy—was treated and released. The driver of the cargo truck stated he also had pain, was admitted to the hospital, was treated and then released.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety report stated that police officers were dispatched to the auto-auto collision in Chalan Kiya last Thursday, July 15, 2021, at about 7:55am.

At the scene, officers observed a silver SUV with extensive damage to the front of the vehicle and a white cargo truck resting off the roadway with extensive damages to the

front of the vehicle.

Medics arrived and transported the occupants to the hospital.

The accident caused a massive traffic jam on both sides of the highway.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety highly reminds motorists to be attentive and drive responsibly, never to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs, always wear your seatbelts, and when being approached by an emergency vehicle, pull to the right shoulder of the road and stop. DPS also encourages all motorists to refrain from speeding. Call 911 anytime to report a crime, emergency, or disturbance. *(Saipan Tribune)*

State Department awards Critical Language Scholarship to 2 at UOG

Two University of Guam students—including one who is from Saipan—have been awarded scholarships through a federal program designed to further their study of foreign languages critical to national security and economic prosperity.

From a nationwide pool of over 4,600 applicants, UOG students Monita Paul and Lourdes Mafnas were selected for the U.S. Department of State's Critical Language Scholarship. The scholarship program supports the study of 15 critical languages and provides fully funded, group-based intensive language instruction and cultural enrichment experiences. Students typically spend eight to 10 weeks studying abroad, although most of this year's CLS institutes will be offered

as a virtual program due to the ongoing pandemic.

Paul, a Saipan resident and a Saipan Southern High School alumna, enrolled in the program because of her desire to communicate with family members. She is studying the Bangla language remotely this summer through the American Institute of Indian Studies in Kolkata, India.



Paul

"I am of Bengali heritage, specifically from my father's side of the family, but I am unable to read, write, or even speak the language fluently," said Paul, who is a Biology major at UOG. "I am looking forward to coming out from the program with the ability to communicate with my father's side of the family. I'm also hoping to use the experience and knowledge I gain for my future career in the

medical field."

Mafnas, an environmental science graduate student, said she applied for the program because it looked like an amazing opportunity to explore another culture and visit another country. Regardless of not being able to study abroad this year, Mafnas wanted to continue with the program because she believed it could

open doors to other careers and opportunities.

She is studying the Indonesian language remotely through the Universitas Negeri Malang in Malang, Indonesia, one of the program's partner institutes. Mafnas said she chose the language because of her interest in Indonesia's culture, history, people, and environment. *(UOG)*

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ITB21-CHCC/CGC-SOC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 26, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-BECQ/DEQ-115

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 03, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Cuba's protesters deserve American support

The unrest on Cuba's streets is the biggest challenge to the country's communist government in decades. And it poses a dilemma for the Biden administration, which previously said it wants to ease U.S. sanctions against the Cuban regime. President Biden needs a way to maintain pressure on the government while moderating penalties that have unavoidably worsened the economic plight of ordinary Cubans. This will require something of a balancing act.

Discontent has been simmering for months. The Cuban economy shrank 11% in 2020. Dwindling foreign-currency reserves have led to shortages of food and electricity. Cuba's homegrown COVID vaccine has reached less than one-third of the population and cases continue to rise, overwhelming the country's hospitals. Anger at deteriorating living conditions has galvanized a grassroots movement led by artists and musicians demanding freedom of expression, civil rights and an end to one-party rule.

It's unlikely the protesters will force Cuba's rulers to liberalize, let alone give up power. The government has a history of violent repression. Since the start of the revolt, Cuba's military has reportedly arrested over 200 citizens, including journalists and activists, and one protester has died. The government imposed a blackout on social media and internet messaging, which Cubans have used to organize protests and publicize abuses committed by security forces.

The U.S. should express solidarity with the Cuban people and reiterate America's support for democracy on the island. Funding for the Office of Cuba Broadcasting, which provides news and information to Cubans via satellite and radio, should be increased. Where possible, the U.S. should bolster financial and technical assistance to civil-society organizations and independent media, and press European allies to do the same.

At the same time, Biden should revisit U.S. policies that have compounded the suffering of the Cuban people. Under former President Donald Trump, the U.S. imposed or re-imposed more than 200 restrictions on trade and travel between the two countries, including bans on people-to-people exchanges and limits on remittances sent from Cuban-Americans to their families. Aimed at punishing the Cuban government and reversing the Obama administration's efforts at engagement, the sanctions have mainly hurt ordinary Cubans, handing the regime a propaganda tool to divert attention from its own failures.

Biden should move forward with allowing Americans to travel to the island and lifting caps on family remittances. Allowing more agricultural exports to Cuba, as proposed by a bipartisan group of senators, would lower food prices for Cuban consumers (and by the way help U.S. producers). Other Trump-era policies, such as visa restrictions on certain Cuban officials, should be kept in place until the regime improves its record on human rights and ceases its crackdown on peaceful protesters.

Admittedly, U.S. efforts to improve the lives of Cubans will also aid members of the government. But isolating the country's 11 million people in order to squeeze the communist regime into submission has been tried for years without success. Moderating sanctions as an expression of support for the protesters is the better course.

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Hypersonic weapons

What are they?

Cruise missiles constitute the first kind of hypersonic weapon. Hypersonic cruise missiles are designed to approach their targets at relatively low altitudes, travelling at least five times the speed of sound, and able to maneuver. The second type of hypersonic weapon is the glide vehicle platform, which is launched from a rocket. Hypersonic weapons are important because they can be used to successfully deter adversaries from starting war because there are no effective countermeasures in place to shoot down these weapons.

Who has them?

Russia has fielded hypersonic missiles on ships, aircraft and long-range missiles based on the presumption that their current inventories of conventional and nuclear-armed missiles can be successfully shot down by American missile defense systems. Russia partners with India and France on hypersonic technology.

China is also fielding hypersonic weapons, to include using hypersonic gliders to transport the missile commonly known as the Guam Killer. China has conducted many more hypersonic tests compared to the United States.

The United States is currently developing offensive standard glide vehicles and corresponding high-speed engine development configurations needed to obtain maximum thrust and propulsion to engage targets. These hypersonic weapons are or will be able to be launched from submarines, military surface vessels, and long-range ballistic missiles.

There are roughly 50 sites scattered throughout the United States that work on hypersonic related matters, including one major location in eastern Micronesia that has undersea communications cables linked to Guam. The U.S. has been partnering with Japan on hypersonic weapons development as well.

Why hypersonic weapons constitute a risk to American national security

The existence of conventional and nuclear-armed hypersonic weapons creates a huge potential vulnerability to American military bases and assets because these armaments are highly dangerous because of the destruction that they can bring about by virtue of how much damage an incoming missile travelling several times the speed of sound can create upon impact.

The United States currently does not have the ability to shoot down incoming hypersonic missiles because current missile defense systems are not capable of immediately identifying and shooting down weapons travelling at such fast speeds, relatively

RICK'S COLUMN

By RICK PEREZ

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rick Perez used to serve in the U.S. military and has work experiences in public policy research and public affairs. He is passionate about national security and geopolitics and runs a newsletter called Guam Affairs at guamaffairs.substack.com. For questions or comments, contact Perez at rickp7839@gmail.com.



low altitudes, and with high maneuverability.

Why this is important to Guam and the Northern Marianas

Our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization should be asking several questions regarding hypersonic weapons and what's taking place in China and Russia. For example, will hypersonic weapons eventually be stored at Big Navy or up at Andersen? Will Tinian be one future home to hypersonic weapons?

Will the future presence of hypersonic weapons create the conditions in the Marianas that will bring about increased risk from the perspective of being an even more important target of the Chinese and the Russian military? How will Mariana islanders and the public be protected from accidents occurring if hypersonic weapons are brought to the Marianas?

What are the Guam and CNMI congressmen doing to anticipate future introductions of hypersonic weapons into the environment? What environmental risks will be created from having to store, support and train for the use, deployment, and employment of hypersonic weapons?

THAAD doesn't cut it

Our Chamorro Pacific Islander civilization has the incentive to understand that the THAAD missile defense system located in northern Guam does not have the ability to necessarily identify and track a low altitude missile headed toward the island, approaching Ritidian at five times the speed of sound.

The United States has yet to field a proven and fully operational counter-hypersonic missile defense system. The shore-based Aegis missile defense system planned from is also not capable of successfully shooting down an incoming hypersonic missile

See **HYPERSONIC** on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The arbitral award on South China Sea: Value of faith and reason

By CELIA LAMKIN and VIET HOANG
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The South China Sea is an important gateway connecting the Indian Ocean with the Pacific Ocean and has close relations with Association of South-east Asian Nations countries. So maintaining a peaceful environment in these waters is very important for countries in the South China Sea region. However, countries in this region are facing the challenges of conflict from China's dangerous actions.

In 2013, the Philippines surprised the world by suing China before an Arbitral Tribunal under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea or UNCLOS. After three years, the Arbitral Tribunal issued the Award on July 12, 2016. Five years have passed since the Award was issued. However, the situation in the South China Sea is still volatile with China's aggressive actions.

China has reclaimed and militarized the maritime features it has occupied. It is also continuously threatening and preventing countries from exploiting their Exclusive Economic Zone, even though UNCLOS stipulates that China does not have these rights.

From the beginning of this year, China passed its Coast Guard Law, which allows the Chinese Coast Guard to open fire on fishing boats of other countries if it violates "the waters under the jurisdiction of China." The problem is that China does not clearly explain what "the water under China's jurisdiction" is. Perhaps the whole world is not surprised anymore that China claims more than 80% of the entire South China Sea with the so-called "nine-dash line." Will China use its coast guard to attack and intimidate other countries' ships all over the waters within this "nine-dash line"? The Arbitral Tribunal affirmed that the so-called "historic rights" within the nine-dash line has no legal basis and violates the provisions of UNCLOS.

In early March 2021, China deployed 220 fishing boats around Whitsun Reef (Julian Felipe Reef) in the West Philippine Sea, prompting the Philippines to denounce China to the world.

Although China does not accept and abide by the Award, it does not mean that other countries should do the same. The decisions of the International Courts and Arbitration in gen-

eral always require the "good faith" attitude of the countries involved in respecting these decisions.

For the Philippines, because of the Award, President Rodrigo Duterte was able to "negotiate" with China, while in 2012, all efforts to "negotiate" by the administration of former late President Benigno S. Aquino, III with China on the Scarborough Shoal issue has failed. Hence, the filing of the Arbitration case of the Philippines against China's nine-dash claims in the West Philippine Sea at the Arbitral Tribunal in 2013.

For the international community, 2020 is a special year for the Award. Starting with Malaysia's Extended Continental Shelf Submission in December 2019, a series of countries have submitted diplomatic notes to the United Nations on the South China Sea issue in which many countries have directly or indirectly invoked the Award.

Countries that have directly invoked the Award include: Great Britain, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, and the United States. Countries indirectly invoked the Award include India, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Recently, U.S. State Secretary Anthony Blinken stated: "Five years ago, an Arbitral Tribunal constituted under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention delivered a unanimous and enduring decision firmly rejecting the People's Republic of China's expansive South China Sea maritime claims as having no basis in international law. ... We call on the PRC to abide by its obligations under international law, cease its provocative behavior, and take steps to reassure the international community that it is committed to the rules-based maritime order that respects the rights of all countries, big and small."

Global Affairs Canada also issued the following statement: "On the fifth anniversary of the decision by the tribunal constituted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in the matter of the South China Sea Arbitration, Canada reiterates the need for all involved parties to comply with it. This decision is a significant milestone and a useful basis for peacefully resolving disputes in the South China Sea."

As for the countries concerned, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Brunei, and Indonesia are not parties with binding obligations in the Award, but the rejection of "historic rights" inside the "nine-dash line" means that these countries are beneficial, because this so-called "nine-dash line" encroaches on their EEZs.

The Award has provided explanations for a number of prob-

lems for the law of the sea. In addition to clarifying the relationship between "historic rights" and UNCLOS, the Award also helps clarify previous open issues related to article 121 of UNCLOS. These explanations will play an important role for interpretation in similar cases.

Vietnam is one of the countries that strongly supports the Arbitral Tribunal and the Award. On Dec. 5, 2014, Vietnam sent a Note Verbale to the Arbitral Tribunal, whereby Vietnam declared "no doubt that the Tribunal has jurisdiction in these proceedings" and "supporting the Tribunal's competence to interpret and apply Articles 60, 80, 194(5), 206, 293(1), and 300 of the Convention and other relevant instruments." Thus Vietnam has endorsed and recognized the Arbitral Tribunal's jurisdiction in this dispute, and can be considered as Vietnam's support for the Award.

Before China's threatening actions, Vietnam is also considering the possibility of following the Philippines to bring China to an arbitration tribunal under Annex VII of UNCLOS or perhaps Vietnam will seek an advisory opinion from International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, or ITLOS, or International Court of Justice to answer some of the issues that China often makes false arguments.

For the ASEAN, the South China Sea issue has divided some members. Facing the complicated situation caused by China's unruly actions in the South China Sea, ASEAN countries need to strengthen solidarity, unity and play a central role. This association is working to build a truly people-oriented community through promoting deeper ASEAN integration, effectively implementing cooperation plans to benefit and impact the lives of people in the area. Therefore, if the South China Sea issue is not resolved, it will affect the development of this organization in the future.

ASEAN and China must immediately reach a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea that is binding, substantive, comprehensive, and meaningful, becoming an effective tool to prevent conflict, maintaining peace, stability, security, and safety at sea.

Celia Lamkin (celia.lamkin@yahoo.com) is the founder and global chairperson of the National Youth Movement for the West Philippine Sea. Viet Hoang (hviet@hcmulaw.edu.vn) is a professor at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Law and an expert on International Law and Law of the Sea.

Biden's speech on voting rights was a sermon, not a battle plan

By MICHAEL MCGOUGH
LOS ANGELES TIMES

In his speech about voting rights on Tuesday, President Joe Biden told the audience at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia that he wasn't "preaching to you." But that was false humility. Biden's speech was very much a sermon, and an effective one, about the importance of defeating an assault on democracy.

What the speech wasn't was a new battle plan for counter-ing efforts by Republican state legislatures to make it harder for Americans—especially voters of color—to exercise the franchise.

Yes, Biden called for enactment of the gargantuan For the People Act, which passed the Democratic-controlled House and is stalled in the Senate, as well as the John Lewis Voting

Rights Advancement Act. He also urged Congress to counter a Supreme Court decision earlier this month that narrowed the protections of what was left of the Voting Rights Act after the court gutted a key provision in 2013.

But as Biden surely knows, the original For the People Act is a dead letter. It isn't just that Senate Republicans used the filibuster last month to prevent even a debate on the legislation. As the price for voting with the rest of his party on that procedural vote, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., apparently got assurances that if debate ever did commence, the focus would shift to his narrower proposal, one that accepts the idea of voter ID requirements.

If, as seems likely, Republicans continue their stonewalling regardless of Democrats' willingness to compromise, Biden might then propose abolishing the filibuster—or at least suspending it for election-related legislation.

Biden didn't take that position in Tuesday's speech, dis-

appointing civil rights activists. But that doesn't mean the speech was a waste of time.

The president effectively communicated the urgency of the threat to elections posed by the big lie that former President Donald Trump won the 2020 election and the subsequent (and related) state efforts to make it harder to vote and to give legislators more sway over election outcomes. The speech was marked by such a sense of exasperation at what Biden called "election subversion" that it could have been headlined "Come on, man!"

The most hopeful gloss on the president's speech was that it was an overture to the sort of dealmaking that resulted in a bipartisan agreement on an infrastructure bill. In the speech Biden shamed Republicans who have enabled Trump's big lie; now he must find a way either to work with them or render them irrelevant.

HYPERSONIC

From Page 8

headed toward Sumay or Ritidian.

The United States does not have the proper sensors positioned in space to effectively identify and track something moving at such high speeds. The Mariana Islands, therefore, remain in a precarious position should our blue continent civilization ever be attacked.

Thus our Pacific Islander civilization would be very well served to have future discussions on what can or cannot be done to survive a potential hypersonic missile attack now. It seems that at present, it would be nearly impossible for our Chamorro people to adequately seek cover if missiles traveling at hypersonic speeds were headed toward Guam or the Northern Marianas.

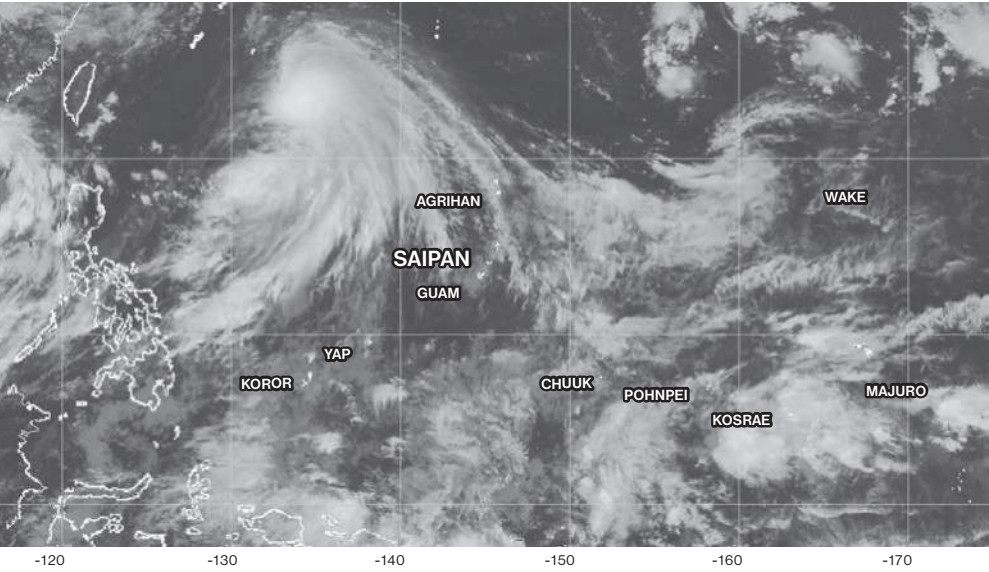
The key point here is that our Marianas Islands chain is relatively near China and Russia, so if these weapons were ever to be used, Guam and the Northern Marianas would be a high

priority target because of the enormous amounts of military assets, weapons, personnel, and resources that are confined to a relatively small area.

This fact provides the incentive for the Chinese to seriously consider using hypersonic weapons to attack Guam and the northern islands if China makes the decision to invade Taiwan. Attacking Guam would be done to stop and prevent the United States from attempting to access or come close to the fighting that would take place in Taiwan, enabling the Chinese better chances to finish the job.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
84°	74°	84°	74°	84°	74°	84°	74°	84°	74°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:18 AM, SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Weak east to southeast winds are blowing across the Marianas. A weak surface trough produced scattered showers and even a few thunderstorms last night. The Ipan buoy shows an east swell between 3 and 4 feet with a 9 second period.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:56 AM	1:57 PM
Tuesday	-	1:44 AM	2:59 PM
Wednesday	-	2:36 AM	4:04 PM
Thursday	-	3:34 AM	5:09 PM
Friday	-	4:37 AM	6:12 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Rain	72° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°	
London	Partly Cloudy	73° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 39°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
New York	Showers	74° / 64°	
Osaka	Showers	93° / 79°	
Paris	Showers	73° / 55°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	82° / 73°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	84° / 66°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 72°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 55°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 70°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:13 AM	High Tide	2.14	
9:32 AM	Low Tide	0.35	
4:10 PM	High Tide	1.71	
9:08 PM	Low Tide	1.22	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (<i>The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.</i>)			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

LAST CALL to apply for *LOST WAGES ASSISTANCE*

The Lost Wages Assistance Program, or LWA, funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), provides supplemental lost wages payments for the weeks of unemployment ending **August 1st**, **August 8th**, and **August 15, 2020** to eligible individuals.

Did you qualify to receive at least \$100 in unemployment compensation from the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program for the week ending August 1, August 8, and/or August 15, 2020?

If so, you are eligible for LWA!

Payments of \$300 per week for all qualified individuals were made to over 6,300 individuals in the CNMI since April 2021.

If you qualify and have not received your payment, please contact us!

DEADLINE TO MAKE A CLAIM:

July 20, 2021



Send your name and contact number to
lwa@pa.gov.mp



Or call us Mon through Fri 7:30am - 4:30pm at
(670) 323-8800 or (670) 323-8801



FEMA



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-029

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE SADOG TASI WWTP UPGRADE (S20-078)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 22, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RAESP-21-029, A&E Design Services for the Sadog Tasi WWTP Upgrade**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 13, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 29, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free public commenting workshops

U.S. Fish & Wildlife and NOAA Fisheries are soliciting for public comments for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument draft management plan. Last day to submit comments is July 26, 2021 (Saipan local time).

To assist you with your comments, the Friends of the Mariana Trench is hosting public commenting workshops on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings from 5pm to 7pm and Tuesday and Thursday during lunch from 11am to 1pm at the MANGO office, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Gualo Rai until July 23, 2021

For more information, email info@friendsmarianatrench.org or call/WhatsApp 483-3668. **(PR)**

Free webinar on effects of sexual violence on the brain and body

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, in collaboration with the CNMI Sexual Assault Response Team, will be hosting a free webinar called “Becoming Trauma Informed: Understanding the Effects of Sexual Violence on the Brain and Body” on Thursday, July 29, 2021, from 8:45am to 12pm via Zoom.

The webinar will feature a presentation by Dr. Jim Hopper, a clinical psychologist and teaching associate in psychology at Harvard Medical School with over 25 years of clinical and consulting work focused on the psychological and biological effects of sexual assault, child abuse, and other traumatic experiences.

To register to attend, fill out the online form <https://forms.gle/cVpjddnhMdLbU7PV9> to receive a link for the webinar. For more information, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@EndViolenceNMI.org. **(PR)**

5.3-magnitude quake in Guam

At 7:51pm on July 14, 2021, a report of

a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred 166 KM southwest of Merizo Village, Guam. Currently, no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000. **(PR)**

A Walk to Remember on July 22

July is annually recognized as Bereaved Parents Awareness Month, a month dedicated to raising awareness of the support necessary when one endures the loss of a child. This month is a time for supporting our friends and loved ones who have experienced child loss, no matter the amount of years that have gone by.

The Group “We Remember Them CNMI” will be hosting a “Walk to Remember” on Thursday, July 22, at 5pm. We will meet at the pavilion next to The Shack Restaurant. Water will be provided. Please feel free to bring a picture of your child. For details, call or text Donna Krum at 783-1900. **(PR)**

Comments sought on Saipan Neighborhood Watch

The 16th Saipan & Northern Islands Municipal Council is soliciting public comments on a planned Saipan Neighborhood Watch Program via a series of town hall meetings on Saipan from 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

- July 20, 2021—Tanapag Social Hall (across Sta. Remedios Church);
- July 22, 2021—San Vicente Youth Park;
- July 27, 2021—Koblerville Youth Center; and
- July 29, 2021—GTC Elementary School.

In addition, residents can attend the meetings via Google Meet by sending their email address at least one day in advance to spnmunicipal-council@gmail.com for the meeting link. For more details, call the municipal council at 664-2700 or 664-2701. **(PR)**



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-21-030

A&E DESIGN SERVICES FOR AGINGAN WWTP IMPROVEMENTS (S20-080)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements in Agingan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAESP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

A **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference followed by site visits** will be held on **July 26, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal in a separate envelope must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RAESP-21-030, A&E Design Services for Agingan WWTP Improvements**”, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 16, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAESP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAESP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 2, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Westen Knudsen, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email westen.knudsen@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF A 1.5 MW TRAILER MOUNTED DIESEL GENERATING SET WITH ENCLOSURE FOR THE CUC POWER PLANT NO. 3, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RFP-21-016, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than July 30, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A Proposal Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposal. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 14, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to CUC's Water Utility Coordinator, Yvonne C. Ogomoro via email address yvonne.ogomoro@cucgov.org, CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Purchasing Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Business

Saipan Select:

1st cannabis retailer in the CNMI now open

By **BEA CABRERA**
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan Select, the very first cannabis retailer in the CNMI, is now open at its location along Route 30 in Tanapag.

The store officially opened its doors to the public last week with the aim of bringing to the community safe and easy way to get cannabis and cannabis-related products.

The company received its license on July 14 and did not dilly-dally getting to work right away. According to business shareholder Clyde Norita, Saipan Select holds two licenses from the Cannabis Commission. "The first license is a Class C production license, which means we can produce and cultivate marijuana up to 5,000 square feet and do wholesale. Our farm is in a warehouse behind our shop. ... Our second license is retail, which gives us authorization to sell," he said. "The way we set the business is that 60% of our business is going to sell wholesale to other retailers and other lounges that are licensed by the Cannabis Commission and sell to customers who drive by the shop."

Saipan Select had a soft opening last Wednesday where guests came by invitation and the its grand opening last Friday. The shop is conveniently located by the road, parking is available and, once you enter, a big counter awaits you where you can do your transaction fast if you already know what strain to get.

If you are undecided, you can take your time as there are tables and chairs available where you can sit down and look at a menu of products or "strains" available at the shop. Saipan Select is allowed to sell retail—cannabis not over 1 ounce per customer. Pricing depends on the kind of strain.

Types of strains currently on the menu are: Wedding Cake or "Fina'mames," Girl Scout Cookies or "Rota Buds," Purple Punch or "Taga Stoned," Bruce Banner or "Taima'nao," Lemon Sour Diesel or "Forte," OG Kush or "Marianas Trench," White Widow or "Chagi Nori," Lemon Haze or "Ma SUFA" and Blue Dream or "Dudus Girl."

"As a producer, we plant what we see has potential and then as we further our business, we plan to produce more various strains. ... On the retail side, a menu is available,

which is a list of cannabis in different strains. We have kept the actual names lifted from leafy.com, an authority on different cannabis strains but gave it a local name for the purpose of the people in the CNMI. Also, it is something to make them smile when they read it," Norita said.

"The drying and curing part is really the critical part for the cannabis and we always want to achieve the highest [quality]. ... We know that our customers are connoisseurs on this and so we want to make sure that we give them the top-grade, top-shelf cannabis and strains because these guys know what they want," Norita added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who was one of Saipan Select's visitors last Friday for the grand opening, enacted in 2018 the Cannabis Act of 2018, decriminalizing the use of marijuana and legalized its recreational and commercial use.

"I congratulate Saipan Select which is owned by reputable people in the community. ... There has been a lot of consideration put into signing this bill and I would like to thank the author and the Legislature who supports this industry. I look forward that it will become a very successful industry," Torres said. "At the same time, I also caution everybody to please use it the right way. Respect the community, the occasion. ... I encourage others members of the community to venture into this but follow the law and procedures of the Cannabis Commission." Norita said that part of their public service is reminding customers to follow the law. "When they come to the store to buy, they have to prove that they are 21 years of age and have a valid government identification card. ... We remind them that there are some conditions like you cannot smoke it in the beach or public park, near schools, churches etc. ... We tell them to be sure to smoke in the privacy of your own home. ... We know our customers know the law but we just help refresh their knowledge. ... We sell to everyone—whether local residents or tourists—but consumption must only be here in the CNMI as they cannot take it outside."

Saipan Select is open Monday to Sunday from 10am to 10pm. For more information, call (670) 488-BUDS. They are also on Facebook and Instagram: saipanselec.

BEA CABRERA

From left: Budtender Victoria Diaz, retail manager/owner Chris Cook, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, assistant retail manager Brenda Villagomez, and business shareholder Clyde Norita at the grand opening of Saipan Select first cannabis retail in the CNMI in Tanapag last Friday.



In celebration of his new life

Ramon Tenorio Castro

Lovingly known as **Bo and Papa Ray**
June 16, 1956 - July 11, 2021

In his new life, he now joins:
Parents: †Juan Manibusan Castro/†Soledad Pangelinan Tenorio
Father- and Mother-in-law: †Bonifacio Faibar Mettao/†Francisca Taisacan Fitipol
Siblings and In-laws: †Teresita DLG(Vegas) Castro Hudson, †Jesus L. Castro, †Henry Hudson, †Robert Tenorio, †Ignacia Tenorio, †Joaquin T. Castro, †Ludenilla F. Castro, †Steven Van Winkle, †Luis T. Castro, †Margarita DLG. Castro, †Lydia F. Castro, †Rosa C. Enriquez, †Vicente Mendiola, †Vicente F. Mettao, †Donicia M. Lifofoi, †Martin I. Lifofoi
Son: †Raymond John Mettao Castro and †Barbara R. Suel
He will live in the hearts and lives of his:
Wife: Rita Mettao Castro
Children: Rudolfo Jose (RJ) Mettao Castro, Rita Juana (Princess) C./Jesus T. (RJ) Tesero and family (Eli'zaiah Bonifacio (Bochu) Mettao Castro, Evi'lei Bianca Mettao Castro, and Ezr'ael Benaiah Castro Tesero) Raegina Jazmine (Leiaschingi) Mettao Castro
Reared Children: Milma Accad and family, Frances Accad and family, Ensin Ngirchchol and family, Emily Ngirchchol and family, Melody Gabionza and family, Tonton Atalig and family, Joey Atalig and family, Nica Atalig and family, JimJim Atalig
Siblings and their families: †Teresita DLG(Vegas)/†Jesus L. Castro/†Henry Hudson and family, †Robert/†Ignacia Tenorio and family, Juan T./Ana (Annie) S. Castro and family, †Joaquin T./Maria M. Castro and (†Ludenilla F. Castro) family, Teresita C./Rod (Boy) San Pedro and (†Steven Van Winkle) family, †Luis T./†Margarita DLG. Castro and family, Rudolfo T./Quilan Castro and (†Lydia F. Castro) family, †Rose C./Paul Enriquez and (†Vicente Mendiola) family, Margarita C./Sebastian Matagolai and family, Jose T./Alice C. Castro and family
Brother- and Sister-in-laws their families: †Vicente F./Magdalena I. Mettao and family, †Donicia M./†Martin I. Lifofoi and family, Jose F. Mettao, Alex F./Mae K. Mettao and family, Emiliana F. Mettao, Antonia F. Mettao, Joaquin F. Mettao, and Patricinia M./James A. (Jun) Pua and family and extended families

Daily Mass
Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00AM
St. Jude Parish at 6:00PM

Mass of Christian Burial
You're welcome to say your final farewells at St. Jude Parish on Tuesday, July 20, 2021, from 8:00AM-10:00AM followed by Mass of Christian Burial. Burial will be at the Veterans' Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Chilissow, and Thank you for all the love, support, and prayers in the loss of our beloved grandpa, father, brother, and husband.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial
is sponsored by



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation



Surviving soaring summer temperatures

When the weather is blistering hot, Dr. David Claypool, a Mayo Clinic emergency medicine physician, says you need to listen to your body.

“What starts out as heat cramps can quickly move to heat exhaustion and then heatstroke when the body loses the ability to regulate and cool itself down,” says Dr. Claypool. He adds a reminder that people should begin the day hydrated and keep hydrating. Dr. Claypool says if you feel hot but develop chills, that’s a clear sign you need to slow down and seek cool air or water.

Heatstroke is a condition caused by your body overheating, usually as a result of prolonged exposure to or physical exertion in high temperatures. This most serious form of heat injury, heatstroke, can occur if your body temperature rises to 104 Fahrenheit (40 Celsius) or higher.

Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage your brain, heart, kidneys and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing your risk of serious complications or death.

Heatstroke signs and symptoms include:

High body temperature. A core body temperature of 104 Fahrenheit (40 Celsius) or higher, obtained with a rectal thermometer, is the main sign of heatstroke.

Altered mental state or behavior. Confusion, agitation, slurred speech, irritability, delirium, seizures and coma can all result from heatstroke.

Alteration in sweating. In heatstroke brought on by hot weather, your skin will feel hot and dry to the touch. However, in heatstroke brought

on by strenuous exercise, your skin may feel dry or slightly moist.

Nausea and vomiting. You may feel sick to your stomach or vomit.

Flushed skin. Your skin may turn red as your body temperature increases.

Rapid breathing. Your breathing may become rapid and shallow.

Racing heart rate. Your pulse may significantly increase because heat stress places a tremendous burden on your heart to help cool your body.

Headache. Your head may throb.

If you think a person may be experiencing heatstroke, seek immediate medical help. Call 911 or your local emergency services number.

Take immediate action to cool the overheated person while waiting for emergency treatment.

Get the person into shade or indoors. Remove excess clothing.

Cool the person with whatever means available—put in a cool tub

of water or a cool shower, spray with a garden hose, sponge with cool water, fan while misting with cool water, or place ice packs or cold, wet towels on the person’s head, neck, armpits and groin.

Heat exhaustion is one of the heat-related syndromes. Symptoms range in severity from mild heat cramps to heat exhaustion to potentially life-threatening heatstroke. Heat exhaustion can begin suddenly or over time, usually after working or playing in the heat, perspiring heavily, or being dehydrated.

Heat exhaustion signs and symptoms include:

- Cool, moist skin with goose bumps when in the heat
- Heavy sweating
- Faintness
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Weak, rapid pulse

- Low blood pressure upon standing
- Muscle cramps
- Nausea
- Headache

If you think you’re experiencing heat exhaustion:

- Stop all activity and rest
- Move to a cooler place
- Drink cool water or sports drinks

Contact your health care provider if your signs or symptoms worsen or if they don’t improve within one hour. If you are with someone showing signs of heat exhaustion, seek immediate medical attention if he or she becomes confused or agitated, loses consciousness, or is unable to drink. You will need immediate cooling and urgent medical attention if your core body temperature (measured by a rectal thermometer) reaches 104 Fahrenheit (40 Celsius) or higher. (*Mayo Clinic News Network/TNS*)

Ask a Pediatrician: How can parents encourage kids to be more active?

Dr. NATALIE MUTH
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

Q: I want to encourage my children to be more active now that it’s warm out. What are some ways to do that?

A: Physical activity is very important for a child or teen’s mental and physical health, but sadly only about 1 in 4 children get the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity per day.

Levels of physical activity drop precipitously as a child’s age and grade in school increase—especially for girls. But when physical activity is a regular part of family life from a young age, kids are more likely to continue to be active even as they get older.

Physical activity includes all kinds of movement, at any intensity, including exercise and physical movement integrated into daily activity, such as walking to a friend’s house for a play date. Physical activity helps build healthy bones, muscles and joints. It also can help maintain a healthy body mass index and reduce the risk of diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease later in life.

The immediate benefits include helping children fall asleep quickly and sleeping well. Physical activity

also boosts a child’s mental health. It increases a child’s enthusiasm and optimism and can improve self-esteem, school performance, attention and even behavior. It also reduces anxiety, tension and depression. It can also foster teamwork and friendship when it’s part of an organized sport.

Parents can play a key role in helping their children become more physically active. Here are 10 tips to get your children moving after more than a year of cancellations and lockdowns during the pandemic.

■ **Talk with your child’s doctor:** A pediatrician can help your child learn why physical activity is important and help your child find fun and developmentally appropriate ways to increase activity.

■ **Emphasize fun:** Help your child find a sport or activity that he or she really likes. The more your child enjoys the activity, the more likely it will become a fixture in his or her life. Get the entire family involved. It’s a great way to spend time together.

■ **Plan ahead:** Make sure your child has a convenient time and place to exercise.

■ **Provide a safe environment:** Make sure the equipment and where children practice or play is safe.



Physical activity is very important for a child or teen’s mental and physical health.

Make sure their clothing is comfortable and appropriate for the activity.

■ **Provide active toys:** Young children especially need easy access to balls, jump ropes and other active toys.

■ **Be a role model:** Children who regularly see their parents enjoying sports and physical activity are more likely to do so themselves.

■ **Play with your children:** Help them learn a new sport or another physical activity, or just have fun together by going for a walk, hike or bike ride.

■ **Set screen limits:** Limit screen time, including watching TV, scrolling through social media feeds and playing video games, each day. Use the free time for physical activities.

■ **Make time for physical activity:** As children return to a more normal schedule this summer, they may become overbooked with lessons and other planned activities. Ensure they have time blocked out to get some fresh air and move about. Find state parks in your area that have good hiking trails or go to

a nearby lake or beach for a day of swimming and splashing.

■ **Don’t overdo it:** Exercise and physical activity should not hurt. If it becomes painful, your child should slow down or try a less vigorous activity. If exercise starts to interfere with school or other activities, talk with your child’s doctor.

Studies show that lifestyles learned in childhood are much likelier to stay with a person into adulthood. If sports and physical activities are a family priority, they will provide children, and parents, with a strong foundation for a lifetime of health. Physical activity and a balanced diet are key to a healthy life. One of the most important things parents can do is to encourage healthy habits in their children. It is never too late to start. Ask your child’s doctor about tools for healthy living.

Dr. Natalie Muth is a pediatrician and registered dietitian. She also is a spokesperson for the American Academy of Pediatrics and the author of “Family Fit Plan: A 30-Day Wellness Transformation.” For more information, go to HealthyChildren.org, the website for parents from the AAP.

Life & Style

'Titane' wins top Cannes honor, 2nd ever for female director

Julia Ducournau's "Titane," a wild body-horror thriller featuring sex with a car and a surprisingly tender heart, won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, making Ducournau just the second female filmmaker to win the festival's top honor in its 74 year history.

The win on Saturday was mistakenly announced by jury president Spike Lee at the top of the closing ceremony, broadcast in France on Canal+, unleashing a few moments of confusion. Ducournau, a French filmmaker, didn't come to the stage to accept the award until the formal announcement at the end of the ceremony. But the early hint didn't diminish from her emotional response.

"I'm sorry, I keep shaking my head," said Ducournau, catching her breath. "Is this real? I don't know why I'm speaking English right now because I'm French. This eve-

ning has been so perfect because it was not perfect."

After several false starts, Lee implored Sharon Stone to make the Palme d'Or announcement, explaining: "She's not going to mess it up." The problems started earlier when Lee was asked to say which prize would be awarded first. Instead, he announced the evening's final prize, as fellow juror Mati Diop plunged her head into her hands and others rushed to stop him.

Lee, himself, spent several moments with his head in his hands before apologizing profusely for taking a lot of the suspense out of the evening.

"I have no excuses," Lee told reporters afterward. "I messed up. I'm a big sports fan. It's like the guy at the end of the game who misses the free throw."

"I messed up," he added. "As simple as that."

Ducournau's win was a long-awaited triumph. The



only previous female filmmaker to win Cannes' top honor—among the most prestigious awards in cinema—was Jane Campion for "The Piano" in 1993. In recent years, frustration at Cannes' gender parity has grown, including in 2018, when 82 women—including Agnes Varda, Cate Blanchett and Salma Hayek—protested gender inequality on the Cannes red carpet. Their number signified the movies

by female directors selected to compete for the Palme d'Or—82 compared to 1,645 films directed by men. This year, four out of 24 films up for the Palme were directed by women.

In 2019, another genre film—Bong Joon-Ho's "Para-

site"—took the Palme before going on to win best picture at the Academy Awards, too. That choice was said to be unanimous by the jury led by Alejandro González Iñárritu, but the award for "Titane"—an extremely violent film—this year's jury said came out of a democratic process of conversation and debate. Juror Maggie Gyllenhaal said they didn't agree unanimously on anything.

"The world is passion," said

Lee. "Everyone was passionate about a particular film they wanted and we worked it out." In "Titane," which like "Parasite" will be distributed in the U.S. by Neon, Agathe Rousselle plays a serial killer who flees home. As a child, a car accident leaves her with a titanium plate in her head and a strange bond with automobiles. In possibly the most-talked-about scene at the festival, she's impregnated by a Cadillac. Lee called it a singular experience.

"This is the first film ever where a Cadillac impregnates a woman," said Lee, who said he wanted to ask Ducournau what year the car was. "That's genius and craziness together. Those two things often match up."

Video games coming to Netflix? Latest hiring offers a clue

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)—Netflix has hired veteran video game executive Mike Verdu, signaling the video streaming service is poised to expand into another fertile field of entertainment.

Verdu's addition as Netflix's vice president of game development, confirmed Thursday, comes as the company seeks to sustain the momentum it gathered last year when people turned to the video streaming service to get through lockdowns imposed during the pandemic.

Netflix wound up adding 37 million worldwide subscribers last year, by far the largest annual gain in its history. But the landscape has changed dramatically now that the easing pandemic has allowed people to return to a semblance of their normal lives.

The video service stum-

bled out of the gate during the first three months of this year, posting its smallest first-quarter subscriber increase in four years, and it predicted its springtime gains would also be meager. The Los Gatos, California, company is scheduled to report its results for the April-June period on Tuesday.

Adding video games would give Netflix another way to build upon the nearly 208 million subscribers that it boasted at the end of March. It wouldn't come as a surprise either, given that Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has long said the company competes as much against video games for a piece of people's leisure time as it does against other video streaming services offered by the likes of Amazon, Hulu, Walt Disney Co. and Apple.

Netflix didn't directly com-

ment on its potential entry into video gaming, but left little doubt about its intent by announcing Verdu's title at the company. Verdu is joining Netflix from Facebook's Oculus, where he oversaw the virtual reality headset maker's games. He previously worked at video game makers Electronic Arts and Zynga.

Now the biggest questions are when Netflix might start to offer video games and whether it intends to charge a separate fee to play them or include them as part of its video streaming services.

In a research note, CFRA analyst Tuna Amobi called video games a logical complement to Netflix's vast library of TV series and films, helping to set the stage for eventual price increases that most subscribers will accept.

Rare stone discovered outlining ancient Rome's city limits

ROME (AP)—Archaeologists have discovered a rare stone delineating the city limits of ancient Rome that dates from the age of Emperor Claudius in 49 A.D. and was found during excavations for a new sewage system.

Rome Mayor Virginia Raggi was on hand for the unveiling Friday of the pomerium stone, a huge slab of travertine that was used as a sacred, military and political perimeter marking the edge of the city proper with Rome's outer territory.

It was found June 17 during excavations for a rerouted sewer under the recently restored mausoleum of Emperor

Augustus, right off the central Via del Corso in Rome's historic center.

In ancient Rome, the area of the pomerium was a consecrated piece of land along the city walls, where it was forbidden to farm, live or build and through which it was forbidden to enter with weapons.

At a press conference in the Ara Pacis museum near the mausoleum, Claudio Parisi Presicce, director of the Archaeological Museums of Rome, said the stone had both civic and symbolic meaning.

"The founding act of the city of Rome starts from the realization of this 'pome-

rium,'" he said of the consecrated area. The stone features an inscription that allowed archaeologists to date it to Claudius and the expansion of the pomerium in 49 A.D., which established Rome's new city limits.

Raggi noted that only 10 other stones of this kind had been discovered in Rome, the last one 100 years ago.

"Rome never ceases to amaze and always shows off its new treasures," she said.

The stone will be on display at the Ara Pacis museum, the Richard Meier-designed home of a 1st century altar until the Augustus museum opens.

Man still depends on ex-wife for everyday needs

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my boyfriend, "John," for a year and a half. He had been divorced for two years after a 20-year marriage when we got together. He told me he and his ex, "Jessica," were still good friends. I thought it was OK since they were co-parenting their kid. I have children of my own, and I understand.

I gave up everything and moved two hours away to move in with John. Then I realized he was constantly talking and texting with her. Then I noticed all the food containers in the fridge were from her. It made me realize how much he depends on Jessica. John told me they divorced because they grew apart.

When we discussed it further, John admitted he still depends on Jessica for everything from dinners to paying his bills and daily conversations. They are both in relationships and continue to act like this. Their "kid" is now 18 and has graduated from high school. Am I wrong for not wanting to move forward in this relationship? John doesn't seem to want or need me.

CONFUSED IN MONTANA

DEAR CONFUSED: To say that John is overly dependent on Jessica would be an understatement, and Jessica seems to like it that way. You're not wrong for preferring not to move forward in this relationship; you are intelli-

gent. For you to move forward, Jessica would have to step aside—and it appears that neither she nor John is open to doing that.

DEAR ABBY: I am a petite, 53-year-old woman who works out four to five times a week, so I'm in very good shape. I often perform manual labor jobs instead of hiring someone or using equipment. I regard it as an opportunity for an extra workout. Someday I may have to take the easier path, but not yet.

When people see me do things that are considered hard work, they presume I need help. For instance, today I bought 30 cement blocks to start building a wall. Several men asked if I needed help. I refused politely as I always do, saying they were thoughtful to offer but I didn't need help. They replied, "No problem."

A short time later it started raining. A woman walked by carrying an umbrella and offered to help, and I responded just as politely. She put her umbrella down and started lifting the blocks into my car anyway! I said, "No need. You were sweet to offer, but I'm getting my morning workout." She took offense and snapped, "Sorry to 'impose.' I was trying to help," and stalked off! This happens often.

I feel bad after these encounters. It seems I am perceived as ungrateful, but if I need help, I will ask for it. How can I con-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



vey this more effectively, or must I just accept the help?

TRYING HARD IN OHIO

DEAR TRYING HARD: If multiple people are offended when you refuse their offers of help, there may be something wrong with the way you're delivering your message. Sometimes it isn't what we say but the words we choose or their tone that can be off-putting. My advice is to talk this over with some of your friends and see how they react.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



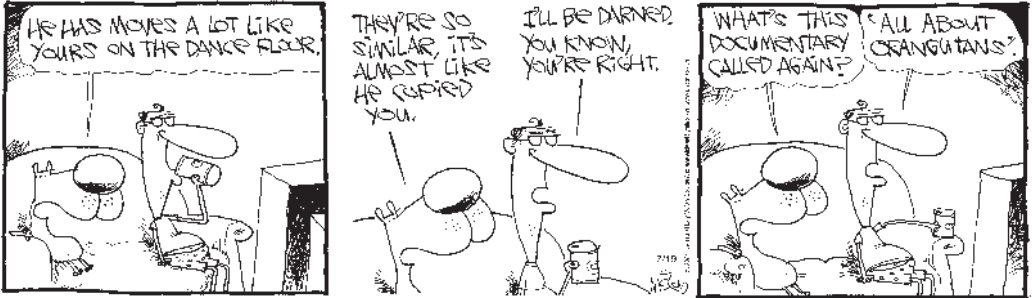
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Chicago mayor Lightfoot
5 Ozone, for one
8 Fluffy scarves
12 Inactive
14 Off-tattooed limbs
15 Fan of boxers and labs
16 Tragic king
17 Tram load
18 Chief monks
20 Stable worker
23 Hawaiian city
24 Disarray
25 Soldiers' IDs
28 Erie Canal mule
29 Future juniors
30 Rowing tool
32 Easy gait
34 Theater section

DOWN

1 "Acid"
2 Oklahoma tribe
3 Joplin tune
4 Domed homes
5 Donated
6 Chemical suffix
7 Linear
8 Spanish explorer
9 Crunchy cookie
10 Latin 101 word
11 Former polit.
13 Par
19 Diner orders
20 Baseball execs
21 Peruse
22 Capital on a fjord
23 Biker's invitation
25 "Que Sera, Sera" singer
26 Hoodlum
27 Wise one
29 Undo a dele
31 Scale members
33 Does a tiling job
34 Janet Jackson's sister
36 Wonka's creator
37 Bygone days
38 Frozen drink brand
39 — the Impaler
40 Actor Richard
43 Undivided
44 Sub-machine gun
45 Capitol VIP
46 N.J. summer hrs.

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 07/19

TIP A-D A CAMP
ISR NEER UBER
MOONWALK BEA
SEAR AILEY
TAPER EBBS
REED B-UE MOON
ARR DRIFT MV
MOONROOF SNI
OUST ACIDS
STORM OLAV
LAPD FULL MOON
ARTI INGE ROB
MASC ROAN EPA

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trai Byers, 38; Jared Padalecki, 39; Benedict Cumberbatch, 45; Nancy Carell, 55.

Happy Birthday: Take a deep breath and dig into something electrifying. Plan your actions carefully, and spare no expense or detail when it comes to reaching your objective. Life is about living, and taking a chance to turn your dream into a reality will lift your spirits and give you hope for a better future. Use your imagination to write the next chapter. Your numbers are 7, 10, 21, 26, 38, 43, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put more into physical well-being and less into letting emotional concerns overwhelm you. When in doubt, you are better off slowing down and focusing inward. Self-improvement will far exceed trying to change the impossible. Talk less and do more. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get involved in the conversation and make a difference. Your broad overview of a situation will help others see the potential in something that will turn a negative into a positive. A change of heart will take you in a new direction. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Move things around at home to suit your needs. If you have a great space to work out or engage in something you want to pursue, it will up your enthusiasm and turn what may seem impossible into something exciting. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Live the dream. It's up to you to make decisions that give you the freedom to explore what excites you. Changes that offer knowledge,

experience and exhilaration will open doors that will encourage a lifelong adventure. Don't miss out because of fear. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotional mistakes will leave you in an awkward position. Choose your words wisely, and refrain from taking physical action. Pace yourself and protect against situations that pose a health risk. When in doubt, pause and rethink your steps forward. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Pay attention to the people around you; gravitate toward those who share your concerns. You will excel if you work with a collective group that allows you to get more done and truly make a difference. An opportunity is within reach. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep your emotions out of any deal you are negotiating. Sentiment will end up costing you dearly. Take a positive approach and concentrate on what's doable. Please verify the information you receive before passing it along. Personal improvement is favored. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Financial, physical or personal risks will backfire. Taking a route that ensures your safety and doesn't warrant emotional wear and tear will be your best bet. Keep life simple, affordable and aboveboard to avoid damaging your credit score or reputation. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Secrets are best not revealed. If someone is nosy, tighten up security. Look for opportunities that include a learning curve; it will help you negotiate your way into a better position.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Leave nothing to chance. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Use your experience to make a difference, but don't fund your plans with personal assets. Look for contributions, and you will find a way to get what you need at a premium. A beneficial domestic improvement is apparent. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't feel you must give more than you receive. Aim for equality, and you will avoid regret. Discipline and hard work will pay off, but they are not likely to be appreciated by someone who feels neglected. Get approval before you make a move. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take the unusual path, and you will discover a talent you didn't know you possessed. An opportunity will emerge if you do your research and invest in yourself and your attributes. Refuse to let your emotions stand between you and victory. **

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, intelligent and resilient. You are aggressive and outgoing.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☹: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☀: Aim high; start new projects. ☀☀☀: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★

7/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3 1 7 2 5 6 8 9 4
4 9 5 1 3 8 6 2 7
6 8 2 9 7 4 5 3 1
2 3 9 7 8 1 4 5 6
5 7 6 4 9 3 2 1 8
8 4 1 6 2 5 3 7 9
1 2 8 3 6 7 9 4 5
7 6 3 5 4 9 1 8 2
9 5 4 8 1 2 7 6 3

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SCUBA GEAR Solution: 6 letters

D V G O G G L E S T E K C O P
K T E K N A L B E H T A E R B
R O B S I W E T S U I T E U S
O T O U T A Y T E F A S O L E
T S P B C G L O V E S Y E M T
A O R H G K I C K U A K A I A
L C O N S O L E R K S G S S
U E P B W A L E C O K S U S
G A E R I H G Y N S Y A P A T
E N L I M L O S E R U A S P H
R T V A I E N S D G R P P M G
E O A D Y I N T E T R P A O I
E W E O F E A E S O R S M C E
F E E T L N R E L S H C T A W
T L E B K F A L U M I N U M L

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Air, Aluminum, Apps, Beach, Belt, Blanket, Boot, Breathe, Buckle, Buoyancy, Compass, Console, Cost, Drysuit, Feet, Fins, Float, Gas, Gauge, Glide, Gloves, Goggles, Hose, Kick, Lamp, Layer, Lenses, Logbook, Maps, Masks, Ocean, Pockets, Pressure, Propel, Reef, Regulator, Roll, Safety, Slates, Snorkel, Steel, Straps, Swim, Tank, Towel, Vest, Watch, Weights, Wetsuit
Last Friday's Answer: Cornish Hen
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Bucks edge Suns 123-119 to take 3-2 lead in NBA Finals



PHOENIX (AP)—Jrue Holiday seized his chance to give the Milwaukee Bucks the lead in the NBA Finals.

Took it right out of Devin Booker's hands, actually.

Holiday's steal and alley-oop pass to Giannis Antetokounmpo for a dunk sealed a wild Game 5 and gave the Bucks a 123-119 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Saturday night.

"It's who he is," teammate Pat Connaughton said. "He's a winner."

And for the first time in 50 years, the Bucks have a chance to be.

Antetokounmpo had 32 points, nine rebounds and six assists. Khris Middleton added 29 points, and Holiday had 27 points and 13 assists.

The Bucks fought their way out of an early 16-point hole by flirting with the best-shooting night in NBA Finals history, but then won it by making a huge defensive play for the second straight game.

They can win their first title since 1971 on Tuesday night in Milwaukee.

"Obviously we know what the deal is. It's one game away from being the NBA champ," said Antetokounmpo, whose postgame press conference was delayed because he was dehydrated.

Booker had 40 points, his second straight 40-point game. But with the Suns rallying and down one with 16 seconds left, he drove into the middle and Holiday wrestled the ball out of his hands.

"I was just trying to score the ball, he was behind me," Booker said. "I turned and he was right there." Antetokounmpo sprinted down the court to his right and Holiday — rather than pulling the ball out to run the clock down — fired a perfect lob pass that the Greek Freak slammed down while Chris Paul fouled him to make it 122-119.

"Giannis took off and he was calling for the ball," Holiday said. "At that point, I just threw it as high as I could and only where Giannis could go get it."

Antetokounmpo missed the free throw, but the Bucks grabbed the rebound and Middleton made one free throw for the final point of the night.

Before the defensive stand, Milwaukee's offense was the story. The Bucks made 32 of 45 shots in the middle two quarters, outscoring the Suns 79-53 during that stretch.

Milwaukee became the



Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo, top, dunks over Phoenix Suns guard Chris Paul during the second half of Game 5 of basketball's NBA Finals, Saturday, July 17, 2021, in Phoenix.

first road team to win in the series and with one more victory will complete its second 2-0 comeback in this post-season — along with the fifth in NBA Finals history.

Game 5 winners of a tied series have won the series 21 of 29 times in the NBA Finals.

"We've got to win one game to put them back on the plane. That's it," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "And you have to have that determination that you're willing to do whatever it takes to put them back on the plane."

Paul had 21 points and 11 assists, and Deandre Ayton finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds. But the Suns missed a chance to move within a victory of their first championship and will need a victory at Fiserv Forum to bring the series back to the desert for Game 7 on Thursday night.

"We knew this wasn't going to be easy. We didn't expect it to be. It's hard," Paul said. "Coach said it all year long, everything we want is on the other side of hard and it don't get no harder than this."

Milwaukee was at 62.1% shooting after three quarters, threatening to challenge Orlando's 62.5% mark against the Lakers in Game 3 of the 2009 finals. Holiday's basket had the Bucks in good shape at 108-94 with about 9 minutes remaining, but the Suns put together a push in the final minutes.

Down 10 with just under 3 1/2 minutes remaining, the

Suns got a 3 from Booker and a basket by Paul to cut it to 120-119 with 56 seconds to play. Holiday missed a jumper, but that didn't matter once the defensive ace of the Bucks backcourt took it back from Booker.

It wasn't as spectacular a defensive play as Antetokounmpo's block of Ayton's dunk attempt that preserved

a two-point lead in Game 4, but it was every bit as important to a Bucks team making its first finals appearance since 1974.

It good off to a bad start when the Suns won the first two games, but things changed when the series moved — even the name of the arena. The Suns announced a naming rights deal

Friday that changed Phoenix Suns Arena into the Footprint Center.

Whatever the name, the arena was so loud during the Suns' sensational start to the first quarter that nobody could hear a foul on P.J. Tucker after a turnover to prevent a breakaway. The Suns passed it ahead to Booker, who threw down a dunk

as Antetokounmpo sprinted back and grabbed his arm in what otherwise may have drawn a flagrant foul.

Not getting that basket didn't slow the Suns, who scored the next seven points to open a 32-16 lead on Mikal Bridges' 3-pointer. The Suns made 14 of 19 shots (73.7%) in the first quarter and led 37-21.

But Booker started the second on the bench and the Bucks opened with a 21-5 spurt to quickly tie it at 42 on Pat Connaughton's 3-pointer with 7:48 remaining in the half.

Milwaukee took a 64-61 advantage to the break, becoming the second team in finals history to lead at halftime after trailing by at least 15 after one, according to Elias.

Milwaukee played without Thanasis Antetokounmpo. Giannis' older brother was placed in health and safety protocols. Coach Mike Budenholzer said the Bucks wouldn't have their whole staff for the same reason.

has 1,068 assists in the playoffs. He moved ahead of Steve Nash and Larry Bird into seventh place on the career list during the game. Suns' Mikhail Bridges scored 13 points.

James Williams was the umpire for the game. He replaced Sean Wright, who was placed in the NBA's health and safety protocols.

Booker brilliant, needs to get more help from stagnant Suns

PHOENIX (AP)—When Devin Booker took his usual seat on the bench at the beginning of the second quarter, the Phoenix Suns lost their stranglehold on Game 5 of the NBA Finals.

Booker had scored 11 points and the Suns built a 16-point lead on Saturday night against the Milwaukee Bucks. The Footprint Center was in a frenzy and Phoenix couldn't miss a shot. Then things changed. Over the next 5 minutes and 46 seconds, the Bucks began their comeback.

By the time Booker returned with 6:14 left in the second, the Suns' lead had nearly disappeared. The Bucks had taken all the momentum and never let it go on the way to a 123-119 win to take a 3-2 series lead as the scene shifts back to Milwaukee for Game 6 on Tuesday night.

"We came out and did what we intended to do, get off to a great start and we let it go," Booker said. "They stayed resilient and they

kept playing through. So, tough loss for us."

Booker was impressive for the second straight game, scoring 40 points on 17 of 33 shooting after his 42-point performance in a Game 4 loss.

But the rest of the Suns were either inconsistent or non-existent.

Phoenix looked stagnant on offense, relying on Booker to generate offense by himself. That was readily apparent on a crucial possession in the final minute when Booker drove to the basket, the Bucks' defense collapsed, and Milwaukee point guard Jrue Holiday ripped the ball away for a steal to seal the win.

"We've got to move it around," Suns coach Monty Williams said. "We know what Book can do with the ball, but the one thing we talked about was getting to the paint, finding guys on the back side. We feel like that's a formula. There were some times tonight where it just stuck a little bit."

Holiday outplayed Phoenix's Chris Paul for a third straight game. Deandre Ayton scored 20 points but wasn't his usual rim-protecting self on defense. Jae Crowder was quiet after a few early 3-pointers and a dunk. Mikal Bridges had a few good moments but the Suns needed more.

Booker's teammates were able to step up during a fourth quarter push, but it proved to be too late.

The Suns have always depended on Booker's production, particularly when it comes to scoring. Even when Paul — an 11-time All-Star and future Hall of Famer — was added to the roster during the offseason, it was the 24-year-old Booker who remained the cornerstone, having grown up over six years while the franchise built into a championship contender.

The difference this season was that Booker usually had plenty of help.

The Suns employed a high-octane offense that put on a premium on quick

passes and sharing the ball. Coach Monty Williams likes to call it a 0.5 second offense because he wanted a pass, shot or drive within a half second.

The offense was clicking early in the finals and the Suns took a 2-0 series lead. It was the Bucks who were struggling to find enough help for two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo. But Milwaukee has flipped the script, winning the last three games — partly because Booker can't do it all by himself.

Phoenix is out of mulligans. If the Suns don't want to watch the Bucks celebrate in Milwaukee, they need to figure it out by the time the NBA Finals return to Wisconsin.

"We're ready, man, we're ready for next game," Bridges said. "If you sulk about it, the blink of an eye the season is going to be over. So, we'll learn from it, coach is going to show clips and what we have to do better, but we know what we have to do. ... We lose it's over."

Shooting outside Nationals Park halts Padres-Washington game



WASHINGTON (AP)—

The game between the San Diego Padres and Washington was suspended in the sixth inning Saturday night after police said there was a shooting outside Nationals Park.

The shooting, an exchange of gunfire between people in two cars, left three people injured, according to Ashan Benedict, the Metropolitan Police Department's executive assistant police chief. One of the people who was shot was a woman who was attending the game and who was struck while she was outside the stadium, he said. Her injuries weren't considered life-threatening.

Two people who were in one of the cars later walked into a local hospital with gunshot wounds and were being questioned by investigators, Benedict said, and the extent of their injuries wasn't immediately clear. Investigators were still trying to locate the second vehicle involved in the shooting.

The gunshots caused panic among fans inside the stadium, some of whom ducked for cover, hiding underneath tables and behind seats as announcers warned people to stay inside the park.

The Padres had just taken the field for the bottom of the sixth when several loud pops were heard from the left field side of the ballpark.

The Padres led 8-4 when the game was halted. It will be resumed Sunday afternoon, followed by the regularly scheduled game.

Yankees 3, Red Sox 1, 6 innings

In New York, Gerrit Cole struck out 11 and New York beat Boston in a game called after six innings because of heavy rain.

Gary Sánchez and Gleyber Torres hit back-to-back homers in the sixth off Hirokazu Sawamura (4-1) as the Yankees beat the rival Red Sox for the first time in eight meetings this year.

Cole (10-4) allowed one run and five hits in a six-inning complete game. It was his seventh double-digit strikeout game this season.

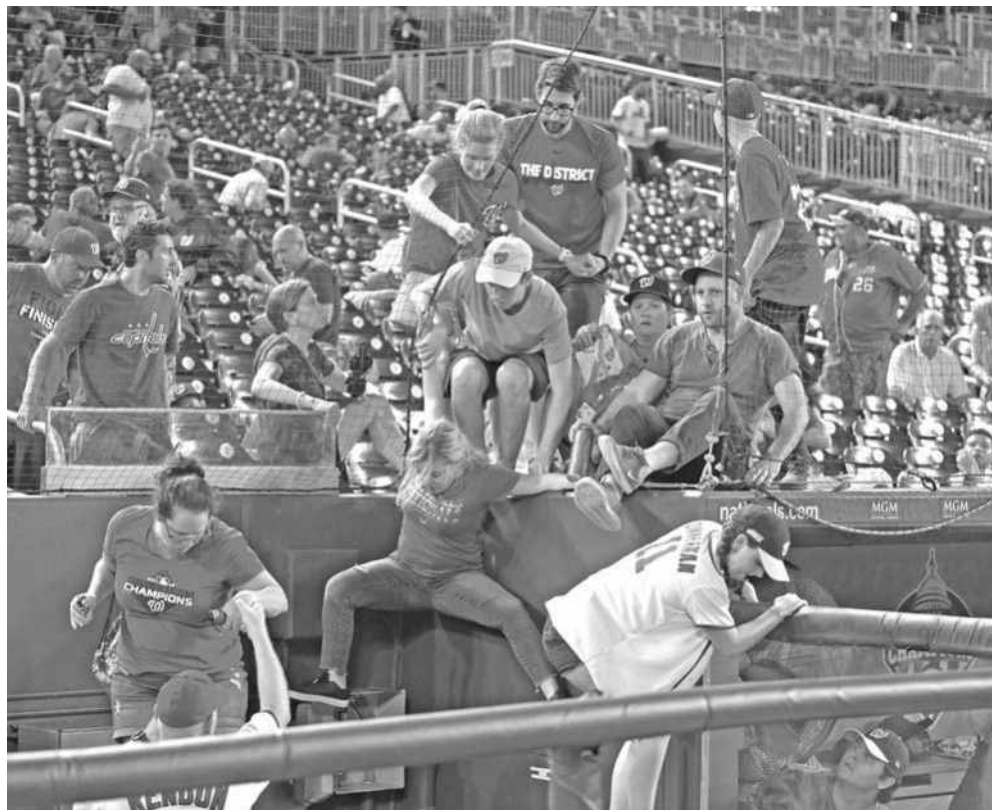
DJ LeMahieu hit an RBI single for the Yankees, who were blanked in the first 13 innings of the series.

Nathan Eovaldi allowed one run and two hits in five innings. He struck out seven and walked one.

Christian Arroyo hit an RBI single in the second for the Red Sox.

Cubs 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Willson Contreras capped a three-run ninth



inning with a two-run homer, sending Chicago past Arizona.

Chicago was down 2-1 before it rallied with two out in the ninth. Rafael Ortega doubled and scored on Robinson Chirinos' pinch-hit single off Joakim Soria (1-4). Contreras then hit a drive to left for his 14th homer.

Rex Brothers (3-2) got three outs for the win, and All-Star Craig Kimbrel worked the ninth for his 21st save. It was career save No. 369 for Kimbrel, snapping a tie with Jonathan Papelbon for ninth on baseball's all-time list.

It was the Cubs' first win when trailing entering the ninth inning since Sept. 12, 2020, at Milwaukee.

Dodgers 9, Rockies 2

In Colorado, Max Muncy had two home runs and four hits, Mookie Betts had a homer among his four extra-base hits before leaving with a hip problem, and Los Angeles won its fourth straight.

Muncy homered is his last two at-bats and finished with five RBIs.

Walker Buehler (10-1) pitched seven strong innings to reach double digits in wins. He set down the last 13 batters he faced after yielding a double with two outs to Ryan McMahon in the bottom of the third.

A.J. Pollock also homered, and Justin Turner hit a two-run double in the ninth ahead of Muncy's second homer of the night, off reliever Zac Rosscup.

McMahon had a run-scoring double and starter Kyle Freeland had a sacrifice fly for Colorado.

Kyle Freeland (1-4) went six innings and allowed three runs on six hits. He struck out four.

Angels 9, Mariners 4

In Anaheim, Calif., David Fletcher extended the second-longest hitting streak in An-

gels history to 26 games with three doubles and five RBIs, and Taylor Ward homered and drove in three runs in Los Angeles' victory over Seattle.

Alex Cobb (7-3) yielded five hits over 6 2/3 innings. Jack Mayfield and Taylor Ward (three hits) also homered for the Angels.

Fletcher's hit broke a tie with Rod Carew's 25-game streak in 1982. Only Garret Anderson's 28-game string in 1998 is ahead of him in Angels history. Fletcher's streak is the longest in the majors since Wilson Ramos' 26-game streak in 2019.

Mitch Haniger hit a three-run homer off Alex Claudio in the ninth for Seattle.

Yusei Kikuchi (6-5) yielded nine hits and seven runs with seven strikeouts over five innings.

Tigers 1, Twins 0, 1st game Tigers 5, Twins 4, 8 innings, 2nd game

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera's bloop single scored Jonathan Schoop from first base, and Detroit beat Minnesota for a doubleheader sweep.

The second game was tied at 3 after seven innings, and the Twins went in front when pinch-runner Nick Gordon scored on a wild pitch by Joe Jiménez (3-1) in the eighth.

But the Tigers rallied in the bottom half. Schoop hit a tying RBI single off Taylor Rogers (2-4). After Robbie Grossman struck out, Cabrera dropped a hit into shallow center as Schoop raced around the bases.

Detroit kicked off the doubleheader with a victory. Grossman hit a leadoff homer, and four pitchers combined on a two-hitter.

José Ureña started for the Tigers and pitched three in-

nings of two-hit ball before departing due right groin tightness. Daniel Norris (1-3) then got six outs, Gregory Soto worked the seventh for his eighth save.

The Twins were shut out for the fourth time this season.

Akil Baddoo hit a three-run triple for Detroit in the second game. Tyler Alexander gave up two runs and four hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Josh Donaldson homered and drove in two runs for Minnesota. Nelson Cruz had two hits and drove in a run.

Twins right-hander Kenta Maeda struck out eight in five innings. He was charged with three runs and three hits.

White Sox 10, Astros 1

In Chicago, Lucas Giolito pitched a three-hitter, José Abreu launched a three-run homer and Chicago beat Houston in a matchup of AL division leaders.

Tim Anderson (three hits), Zack Collins and rookies Gavin Sheets and Jake Burger also went deep as the White Sox broke out against the Astros.

Giolito (8-6) struck out eight and walked none while throwing 107 pitches in his fifth career complete game. After Michael Brantley doubled with one out in the first, Giolito retired 22 in a row before Abraham Toro connected with two outs in the eighth.

Astros right-hander Jake Odorizzi (3-5) permitted four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings.

Pirates 9, Mets 7

In Pittsburgh, Jacob Stallings' grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning off closer Edwin Díaz rallied Pittsburgh over stunned New York.

Trailing 6-0, the Pirates scored all their runs in the final two innings — five in the eighth and four in the ninth. Stallings

Fans jump into a camera well after hearing gunfire from outside the stadium, during a baseball game between the San Diego Padres and the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park in Washington on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

got his sixth career game-ending RBI.

J.D. Davis hit a pair of two-run homers for New York in his first start since coming off the 60-day injured list, and rookie starter Tylor Megill pitched six scoreless innings.

But it wasn't enough on a miserable day for the Mets, who detailed injuries to star shortstop Francisco Lindor and ace Jacob deGrom before the game.

Indians 3, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Calif., Frammil Reyes hit his 15th home run into a luxury suite in center field, and Cleveland beat Oakland for its fourth win in five games.

Cal Quantrill (2-2) threw five effective innings to win his second consecutive start, finishing with five strikeouts and allowing one run. James Karinchak pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Cesar Hernandez hit an RBI double, Amed Rosario had a sacrifice fly and Austin Hedges added two hits for Cleveland.

Braves 9, Rays 0

In Atlanta, Joc Pederson hit a two-run homer in his first start with Atlanta, Max Fried had a two-run double among three hits while throwing seven dominant innings, and the Braves shut out Tampa Bay.

Fried (7-5) did not allow a baserunner to reach second. The left-hander gave up four hits with one walk and had seven strikeouts.

Pederson had two hits, including an infield single to a vacant third base against the Rays' defensive shift in the eighth. His homer, off Josh Fleming (7-5), was the highlight of a six-run fourth inning.

Brewers 7, Reds 4, 11 innings

In Cincinnati, Christian Yelich doubled home the go-ahead run in the 11th inning and Milwaukee beat Cincinnati to widen its lead in the NL Central.

The Reds loaded the bases in the bottom of the 11th, but with an empty bench, manager David Bell sent pitcher Wade Miley up to pinch hit for reliever Ryan Hendrix. He grounded out to second to end the game.

Milwaukee opened this series with two straight wins to take a six-game lead in the division.

Cardinals 3, Giants 1

In St. Louis, Kwang Hyun Kim tossed six shutout innings, Tyler O'Neill and Paul Goldschmidt homered and St. Louis snapped San Francisco's five-game winning streak.

Kim (5-5) has not allowed a run over his last 21 innings, covering three starts. The South Korean-born left-hander was pitching in front of his wife and two children for the first time in the United States.

St. Louis has won eight of its last 10 games at home against the Giants.

Kim allowed three hits. He struck out one, walked two and left with a 3-0 lead. Alex Reyes recorded his 21st save.

Orioles 8, Royals 4

In Kansas City, Mo., Ryan Mountcastle and Ramón Urias each had two RBIs, and Baltimore ended a five-game losing streak by beating Kansas City.

The Orioles got six consecutive hits in a five-run third inning as they chased starter Brady Singer and opened a 7-0 lead.

Singer (3-7) gave up seven earned runs. He lasted two-plus innings, allowing eight hits and one walk with one strikeout.

Baltimore starter Jorge Lopez went 4 2/3 innings, allowing four earned runs and seven hits with four strikeouts. Paul Fry (3-3) worked 1 1/3 hitless innings for the win.

Carlos Santana had an RBI double for Kansas City.

Marlins 2, Phillies 2, suspended

In Philadelphia, the game between Miami and Philadelphia was suspended due to rain with no outs in the top of the 10th inning.

The game will resume at 1:05 p.m. on Sunday, followed by the regularly scheduled series finale.

The Phillies appeared headed to their ninth win in 13 games before the Marlins tied it with a pair of runs in the ninth off Ranger Suárez, who blew his first save in his fourth chance since being elevated to the closer role.

Starling Marte led off the ninth with a single to right, and Jesús Aguilar followed by driving an 85 mph changeup into the seats in left field.

Rain halted the game in the top of the 10th.

The Phillies took advantage of Rojas' fielding error at shortstop in the first inning to score a pair of runs.

Phillies starter Vince Velasquez pitched five scoreless innings, striking out four and walking two.

Zach Thompson, a 27-year-old rookie, went four innings and gave up two unearned runs on two hits, two walks and two strikeouts.

Yuko tops CWGA July tourney

CONTRIBUTE DPHOTO

Yuko Togawa, right, poses with other members of the CNMI Women's Golf Association after topping the club's July ace last July 10 at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.



By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Yuko Togawa joined the elite list of the CNMI Women's Golf Association's monthly

winners after topping the club's July ace last July 10 at the Kingfisher Golf Links

4

From Page 20

"We're proud of our sailors and fishers and grateful to SFA who invited us and to Atkins Kroll who sponsored the canoes in the event, and [Department of Land and Natural Resources] who hosted the canoes in Smiling Cove. We've never felt prouder of the CNMI!"

During the awards ceremony last Monday at the Aqua Resort Club poolside, SFA member and emcee Curtis Dancoe recognized the intrepid crew of the four Flying Proas by asking them to stand up and were cheered by everyone in attendance.

"They were given no special treatment and they didn't want it anyways. They wanted to be equal as it was with our founding fathers in fishing and they wanted to be treated the same

and we certainly appreciate your participation. We continue to pray to preserve the culture, to enhance, and be a part of future events," said Dancoe before inviting one of the crew, Arthur De Oro, to say some words up in the stage.

"I think this is one of the first time that you have a traditional sailing canoe category in an international fishing tournament so we're so proud and so happy that we were sponsored by the Saipan Fishermen's Association and AK Toyota because if it wasn't for the, you wouldn't have seen us out there," said De Oro.

He added that 500 Sails is indeed in the forefront of reviving the CNMI's long lost sailing canoe tradition and even as he spoke other members of the group are educating the next generation about the important part the Flying Proa played in the islands' history

and culture.

"We lost our traditional sailing canoe tradition in Marianas but you know who's helping us getting it back—our Carolinian brothers. In fact, master navigators Cecilio Rai-ukiulipiy, Antonio Pailug, and Mario Benito who sailed with the rest of the group through to Tinian for a summer camp this morning. So we're so happy to be part of the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament."

Apart from De Oro, other crew that manned the Flying Proas for 12 grueling hours each day during the two-day fishing derby were Pailug, Leo Pangelinan, Jeremiah Benavente, and Percy Yalisman.

De Oro and Pailug hope that moving forward that an all-Flying Proa fishing derby would be held in the future to toast the culture and tradition of the Marianas' seafaring past.

The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants, and registration forms are available at www.saipan-hotels.org. The early bird tournament fee is \$120 and includes green fee and the awards luncheon. The fee increases to \$140.00 after the early bird deadline on Friday, July 30, 2021, at 4pm. For an additional \$30.00, players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and four chances for nearest to the pin. Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. An awards presentation and raffle will be held poolside immediately following the tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

The tournament's Presi-

dential Suite Sponsor is the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. Hole-in-One sponsors are Atkins Kroll Saipan, Triple J Motors, and Joeten Motors Co. Deluxe Package sponsors are Bridge Capitol LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package sponsors are GrandVrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan, and Shirley's Coffee Shop. VIP Package sponsors are Armatech, Ben's International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong's Corp., Ina's Kitchen, and the Japan Saipan Travel Association. The tournament is also supported by numerous in-kind sponsors.

For more information, contact Tournament Chairman Glenn Policare at glenn_policare@kanoaresort.com or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. (PR)

in Talafofo.

Togawa fired a net score of 73 to win the monthly plum on the strength of a 75 gross. The 2-handicapper shot 2-over 38 in the front nine and an impressive 1-over 37 in the back nine.

Kyunga Park finished second for the July tourney, carding net score of 74 built on a gross of 88. The 14-handicap-

per came away with a 45 in the first nine holes and 43 in the final nine holes.

Completing the Top 3 was Su Jeong Yi with her net 76. The 7-handicapper fired a 42 and 41 in the front and back nines for a gross of 83.

For winning the July tourney, Togawa joins Park (January), Jones Sherlyn (February, March, April), Flor Jones (May), and Terry Guerrero (May) as monthly winners of CWGA's tournaments so far

this year.

CWGA's next monthly tournament is scheduled on Aug. 21 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

The club is also looking for new members as the new season has begun. For those interested in becoming a member of CWGA or for more information, contact CWGA president Yuko Togawa at 287-9856, vice president Lorraine Babauta at 287-0621, or treasurer Lou Kim at 783-7317.



Tryouts for UOG's varsity sports to begin Aug. 2

The University of Guam Triton Athletics Department will begin open tryouts for each of the six varsity sports during the first week of August.

The department is excited to welcome back returning student-athletes and give new students a chance to compete at the varsity level.

Varsity Athletic Tryouts are set for:

■ Men's Soccer: 4pm-6:30pm, Aug. 2-3, at the UOG soccer field behind the Calvo Field House

■ Women's Rugby: 4pm-6:30pm, Aug. 2-3, at the UOG rugby field behind the Calvo Field House

■ Women's Basketball: 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Aug. 2-3, at the Calvo Field House

■ Women's Soccer: 4pm-6:30pm, Aug. 4-5, at the UOG soccer field behind the Calvo Field House

■ Baseball: 4pm-6:30pm, Aug. 4-5, at the George Washington High School baseball field

■ Men's Basketball: 7pm-9:30pm, Aug. 4-5, at the Calvo

Field House

Tryouts are open to all full-time and part-time UOG students for the fanuchanan (August - December) semester of 2021. Current UOG students must be taking at least six credits and have a 2.00 GPA. First-time freshmen must have a 2.50

GPA out of high school to play their first semester at the University. Transfer students must have a 2.00 GPA from their previous school to play at UOG.

"After years of planning, we expanded our athletic program to offer six varsity sports for our student-athletes. We are excited to give them more options to find a sport they enjoy and compete at the varsity level," said UOG Athletics Director Doug Palmer. "We hope to continue growing the program and provide more offerings in the future."

Grants available for basketball and soccer
Partial tuition grants are available for men's and women's basketball and soccer. The

grants can be earned at the discretion and recommendation of the head coach with the approval of the athletics director.

Students must have a 2.50 GPA to be eligible for a grant, first-time freshmen must have a 3.00 GPA out of high school to be eligible for a grant, and transfer students must have a 2.50 GPA to be eligible.

COVID-19 safety requirements

All students participating in tryouts must provide proof of partial or full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test within seven days of both tryout dates. Prior to starting practice sessions, all student-athletes will need to obtain an athletic physical and provide proof of partial or full vaccination or a weekly negative COVID-19 test. Prior to playing in outside competition, student-athletes will need to be fully vaccinated.

To submit COVID-19 documents and for more information on the tryouts, call Doug Palmer at 735-2862 or email palmerd@triton.uog.edu. (PR)

SAIPAN

From Page 20

Resort & Spa Saipan, Saipan World Resort, and one each at Grandvrio Resort, Civic Center, Japanese retirement, and in Dandan, among others.

Junior player Serin Chung said the loss of the PIC tennis courts is a big blow to the CNMI's national tennis program.

"It's really sad that PIC courts are closed because we have to stop taking lessons there for now. A lot of us are working hard for the upcoming tournament in Guam and for the Pacific Mini Games that will be held here. It would be nice to have more courts available at this time so that everyone will be able to practice and improve their game. It is surprising that the number of courts decreased a lot over the years," she said.

Hyejin Elliot seconded Chung's assessment, adding that she hopes the powers-that-be open other tennis courts on island to sort of make up for the loss of PIC's tennis courts.

"For the temporary closing of the tennis courts, it will

be hard for the players and coaches to adjust training for the next few months. Because there is only a certain amount of courts, it will be difficult for players to improve, as there are upcoming tournaments. It should be recommended to have more courts available during this time," she said.

With PIC closed, Savita Sikkell said junior netters like her will just have to make do with the remaining tennis courts on island.

"Now that PIC's tennis courts are closed, we are no longer able to practice there. With the lack of courts available it is hard for most people to practice. However, with the Pacific Mini Games coming up we should continue to practice whenever we are able to in order to maintain our skills," she said.

Cody Shimizu said with the PIC tennis courts gone, it only leaves the AMP tennis courts as the only free tennis courts available on Saipan.

"The PIC tennis courts closing was unexpected and it's sad news that we cannot play anymore due to the tourism bubble. The PIC tennis courts were one of the only available

courts here in the island and it's a shame it's closed. From 38 tennis courts to nine is kind of tragic since the AMP courts are the only tennis courts that are free to public," he said.

Race earlier said that the North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam was supposed to be held last month but was moved to September.

"Due to COVID the NPRC was postponed this week until Sept. 13. The postponement is just still part of these COVID-19 times. Lack of flights, quarantines, PCR tests at \$300 a pop. Things are still not back to normal. The [Federated States of Micronesia] team had vaccination and travel challenges, as did Palau. We still have to be flexible and patient," he said.

Race said it was a good move to postpone the North Pacific Regional Championships, as sending CNMI players to the U.S. territory at that time would've been fiscally irresponsible.

"We were going to take 16-18, but imagine, with adults that's \$6,000 just for PCR tests before you get to airfare and hotel costs."

AK

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said tournament chair Glenn Policare. "They have been sponsoring this tournament for as long as I can remember. As emcee and tournament chair, I would love nothing more than to give a car away!"

Golfers will also have the opportunity to win \$10,000 cash as a hole-in-one and other prizes.

"We're proud to be a sponsor of the HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament in supporting the Pacific Mini Games," said Atkins Kroll GM and vice president Joel Lesh. "AK is part of the CNMI community as CNMI hosts these 2022 athletic games promoting keen competition and active lifestyles."



Bucks edge Suns
123-119 to take 3-2
lead in NBA Finals

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Yuko tops CWGA
July tourney

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

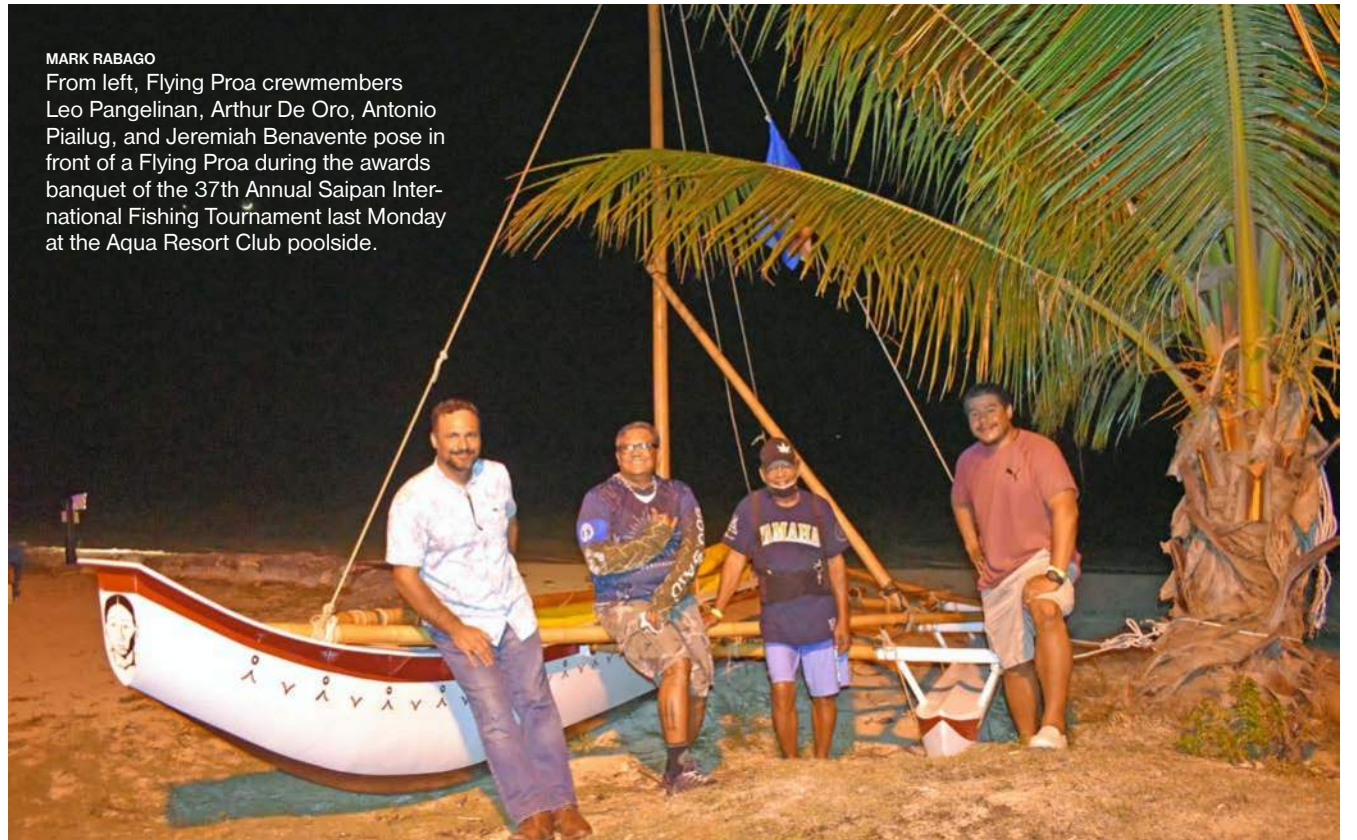
4 Flying Proas take part in fishing derby



MARK RABAGO

Auntie Oba being sailed to the Aqua Resort Club for the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament awards banquet last Monday.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



MARK RABAGO
From left, Flying Proa crewmembers Leo Pangelinan, Arthur De Oro, Antonio Pailug, and Jeremiah Benavente pose in front of a Flying Proa during the awards banquet of the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament last Monday at the Aqua Resort Club poolside.

An unfamiliar site happened two weekends ago during the 37th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament when four Flying Proas shared the seas around the Marianas with Bayliners, Islanders, Boston Whalers, Kevlar Cats, and Micronesia Marines.



The *Auntie Oba*, *Neni*, *Richard Seman*, and *Anaguan* of non-profit organization 500 Sails all took part in the two-day fishing derby and although none of them won any of the categories, they certainly made history.

“For the first time in hundreds of years, four local canoes headed out to sea to

fish together as part of the Saipan Fisherman’s Association’s 37th Saipan International Fishing Tournament. Three of the canoes were captained by Carolinian traditional navigators and the crew and fishers

were a mix of youth and adults representative of our diverse community—a beautiful example of how our local cultures work together and support each other. This is what canoe culture is all about,” said 500 Sails

co-founder Pete Perez.

He also thanked SFA and Atkins Kroll for sponsoring the four Flying Proas’ entrance fee to the fishing derby.

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AK Saipan offers 2021 Camry LE for HANMI golf tourney

Atkins Kroll Saipan is offering a 2021 Toyota Camry LE as their hole-in-one prize at the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021 at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan.



“I am so excited to an-

nounce that Atkins Kroll Saipan will be partnering with our tournament once again,”

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Atkins Kroll Guam and Atkins Kroll Saipan president Wendi Herring, second right, donates a 2021 Toyota Camry LE on July 15, 2021, as a hole-in-one prize for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. From left, AK Saipan Marketing and Communications director Trina Cruz, AK Saipan Sales associates Mark Sablan and Kevin Ada, AK Saipan GM and vice president Joel Lesh, CEO Ben Babauta of tournament beneficiary Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, AK Saipan Sales manager Kevin Barnes, Herring, and golf tournament committee chair Glenn Policare.

Saipan now down to around 9 tennis courts

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



With the start of the CNMI’s travel bubble with South Korea last Saturday, Pacific Islands Club Saipan’s tennis courts in San Antonio became effectively off-limits to local tennis players.

Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president Jeff Race said the tennis courts at PIC not only serve as a home base for his Aces Tennis Academy but also is where majority of the islands’ junior tennis players train.

This comes at a time when the Commonwealth’s junior players are ramping up training for the North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam in September. Tennis is also one of the nine sports in the calendar of events for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games the Northern Marianas will be hosting for the time ever from June 17 to 25 next year.

“Twenty-two of the 25 or so junior and senior national team players have been using PIC,”



MARK RABAGO

The American Memorial Park tennis courts is just one of only a handful of tennis courts left open on Saipan. Photo shows Seoh-lee Lee and Jimin Woo talk strategy during a tournament in this file photo.

said Race in a social media message to *Saipan Tribune*.

The many time CNMI national coach and CNMI Sports Hall of Famer said from 38 tennis courts, Saipan is now down to just nine or so tennis courts not only for its junior tennis players to train but also for recreational tennis players.

He said after losing the four tennis courts at PIC, the island is down to the four tennis courts at American Memo-

rial Park, two at Hyatt Regency Saipan, and one each at private residents on Navy Hill, Capitol Hill, and Anak’s Homes.

The 28 tennis courts that have been sidelined since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the closure of hotels include the aforementioned four at PIC, include five at Kensington Hotel, five at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort, two each at Kanoa Resort, Fiesta

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